

1975

## 1975 Annual Report Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

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# 1975 Annual Report



**Nebraska Game and Parks Commission**



## PURPOSE

Husbandry of state's wildlife, park and outdoor recreation resources in the best long-term interests of the people.

GOAL 1: To plan for and implement all policies and programs in an efficient and objective manner.

GOAL 2: To maintain a rich and diverse environment in the lands and waters of Nebraska.

GOAL 3: To provide outdoor recreation opportunities.

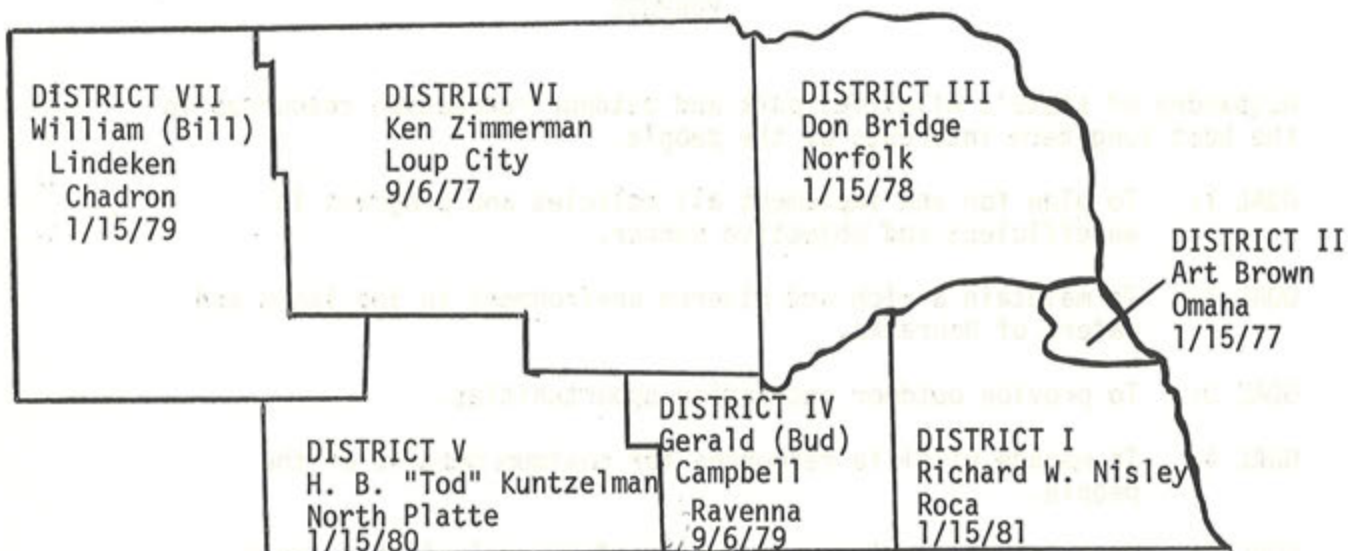
GOAL 4: To manage wildlife resources for maximum benefit of the people.

GOAL 5: To cultivate man's appreciation of his role in the world of nature.

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#### DIRECTOR

Willard R. Barbee

#### ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

William J. Bailey, Jr.

Dale R. Bree

#### DIVISION CHIEFS

Budget and Fiscal Division. . . . .	Lyle D. (Jack) Hanna
Engineering Division. . . . .	Dean Sandahl
Fisheries . . . . .	Robert Thomas
Information and Education . . . . .	Jim E. Wofford
Law Enforcement . . . . .	Carl E. Gettmann
Operations and Construction . . . . .	Earl Johnson
Parks . . . . .	Charles Duncan
Personnel . . . . .	Lloyd M. Steen
Planning and Programming. . . . .	Delvin M. Whiteley
Resource Services . . . . .	Harold K. Edwards
Wildlife . . . . .	Ken Johnson

## BOATING

In 1975, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission registered 38,517 motor boats, compared to the 14,000 registered in 1960, the first year registration was required. While it is virtually impossible to estimate the number of non-power boats in Nebraska, general observations and the mail indicate that the number of these vessels is very large and increasing rapidly.

In 1975, there was 41 accidents reported, with 30 injuries and 3 deaths. In 1960, there were 28 accidents, 14 injuries and 7 deaths.

As in previous years, the Red Cross, City of Lincoln Recreation Department, and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission worked together to organize classes on canoeing and water safety. These classes were free and open to the public. Students were required to meet certain swimming requirements and to be at least 8 years old. Classes were held at Holmes Lake Marina in Lincoln and throughout the state where requested. The classes were particularly popular with 4-H students, Bible camps, Boy Scout camps, and other camps of similar nature.

U.S. Coast Guard personnel of the 2nd Coast Guard District have given the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission great assistance in boating and water safety. Both the St. Louis office and the Boating Safety Detachment from Yankton have worked with us constantly and their work is deeply appreciated. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary has been active in giving classes on boating safety and also safety inspection.

During the colder months classes were given in the schools, and Concordia Teachers College in Seward provided their indoor swimming pool for use in teaching water safety every weekend.

Game and Parks Commission conservation officers gave lectures and demonstrations throughout the state in boating and water safety.



## BUDGET AND FISCAL

Budget and Fiscal Division includes four sections: (1) Permits, which encompasses the Boating Administration, Accounts Receivable and Permit Accounting Departments; (2) Fiscal, which encompasses audits, voucher payments and data processing; (3) Plant and Equipment, which coordinate all purchases of materials, supplies and equipment, bid procedures and letting of construction contracts and assists in maintaining the agency's inventories; and (4) Records Management, responsible for the agency's records management system, development and maintenance of forms control system and assists in the development and maintenance of agency's inventory system and equipment numbering systems.

Administration of all functions and duties of the division is performed by the division chief and his administrative staff, who are also responsible for the preparation of the agency's Annual Budget Request and administration of the Annual Legislative Budgetary Appropriations.

Major functions of the Budget and Fiscal Division include: (1) maintaining all fiscal records in accordance with state and federal laws; (2) maintaining area cost accounting on income and expenditures for internal control of the Commission; (3) administering fiscal operation and control of federal programs; (4) administering the fiscal control of State Boating Laws; (5) issuing all hunting and fishing permits to vendor accounts; (6) receiving, depositing, and maintaining accounts receivable records on all funds; received by the Commission; (7) preparing the Commission's annual budgets; (8) preparing and maintaining the Commission's fiscal and operating budgets; (9) administering the purchase of all equipment, supplies, materials and letting of construction contracts for the Commission; (10) maintaining inventory control and records of all personal property of the Commission; (11) performing audits of federal programs relating to participating sub-divisions and internal audits of the other divisions of the Commission; (12) administering an internal program of forms control, including development of forms and defining their purpose, use, and retention, and (13) performing other administrative functions as assigned by the Board of Commissioners, director and/or assistant directors.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

January 1, 1975 - Cash or General Fund Appropriations on Hand:

Game Fund	1,670,291.87
State Park Facilities Cash Fund	382,516.31
Various Federal Work Make Programs	.00
Land and Water Conservation Cash Fund	214,922.36
Total Agency Operational Costs-General fund	1,377,871.04
Capital Construction - General Fund	<u>3,156,800.20</u>

Total Cash and General Fund Appropriation on hand January 1, 1975	6,802,401.78
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Cash Revenue Received During 1975

Game Fund	5,257,341.88
State Park Facilities Cash Fund	418,567.70
Various Federal Work Make Programs	148,025.32
Land and Water Conservation Cash Fund	1,987,677.25
Total Agency Operational Appropriation	
General Fund	3,477,567.00
Less amounts lapsed	(36,635.11)
Less amounts decreased by L.B. 6	(104,327.00)
Capital Construction - General Fund	1,203,875.00
Less amounts decreased by L.B. 6	<u>(220,625.00)</u>

Total Cash Revenue Received and General Fund Appropriation Available During 1975	12,131,467.04
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Total Expended by Fund Type:

Game Fund	4,675,178.58
State Park Facilities Cash Fund	577,051.54
Various Federal Work Make Programs	120,728.87
Land and Water Conservation Cash Fund	
Federal Boating Fund, Federal NYC Fund	1,912,173.65
Total Agency Operational Costs - General	
Fund	2,885,578.64
Capital Construction - General Funds	<u>1,312,153.64</u>

Total Agency Expenditures During 1975	11,482,864.92
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January 1, 1976 - Cash and General Fund Appropriation on Hand:

Game Fund	2,252,455.17
State Park Facilities Cash Fund	224,032.47
Various Federal Work Make Programs	27,296.45
Land and Water Conservation - Cash Fund	290,425.96
Total Agency Operational Costs-General Fund	1,828,897.29
Capital Construction Funds	<u>2,827,896.56</u>

Total Cash and General Fund Appropriation on hand, January 1, 1976	7,451,003.90
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## SOURCE OF INCOME

### Hunting Activities:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Total</u>
Resident License to Hunt	413,487.00	
Nonresident License to Hunt	411,825.00	
Resident Trapping License	18,413.50	
Nonresident Fur Buyer's and Trappers Permits	2,475.00	
Resident Fur Buyer's Permits	1,260.00	
Deer Permits	558,935.00	
Antelope Permits	29,400.00	
Turkey Permits	21,980.00	
Game Farm and Pet Permits	2,060.00	
Taxidermist Permit	360.00	
Duck Blind Rental	2,760.00	
Controlled Shooting Area	50.00	
Beaver Seals	22.00	
Raptor Permits	230.00	
Coyote Permits	760.00	
Fur Sales	601.85	
Bird Bands	459.40	1,465.078.75

### Fishing Activities:

<u>Source</u>		
Resident License to Fish <sup>\$4.00</sup>	678,096.00	169,524
Nonresident 3 day Fish <sup>\$3.00</sup>	71,520.00	23,840
Nonresident Annual License to Fish <sup>\$10.00</sup>	107,420.00	10,742
Bait Vendors	6,100.00	
Seining Vendors	6,775.00	
Private Fish Hatchery License	640.00	
Trout Permits	99,328.00	
Commercial Put-and-Take Fish Hatchery	400.00	970,279.00

### Hunting and Fishing Activities:

<u>Source</u>		
Resident Combination Hunt and Fish License <sup>\$8.00</sup>	482,688.00	60,336 permits 482,688.00

### Special Stamps:

<u>Source</u>		
Upland Game Bird Stamp	156,708.00	156,708.00

### Federal Reimbursement:

<u>Source</u>		
Pittman-Robertson & Dingell-Johnson Land & Water, Hunter Safety, Commercial Fish	1,464,921.09	1,464,921.09

# Miscellaneous Receipts:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Total</u>
NEBRASKA Land Magazine		
Subscriptions	194,189.00	
Advertising	20,958.56	
		215,147.56
Duplicate Permits		978.00
Liquidated Damages		15,280.32
Calendars, binders, slides, portfolios, etc.		9,552.53
Sale of Surplus Property		7,752.74
Agricultural Lease & Crop Income		123,223.28
Boating Permits		213,282.00
Cash Gifts		31.00
Land Sales - Easements		25.00
Incidentals		2,628.44
Interest Earned - Investments		106,626.46
House Rental		6,533.00
Transfers from other agencies		15,557.07
Rent of Aircraft to other agencies		777.12
Insurance Claims		272.52
		<u>717,667.04</u>
Total Game Fund Income		5,257,341.88

## STATE PARK CASH FUND INCOME

### Park Facilities:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Arbor Lodge	15,207.85
Buffalo Bill's Rest Ranch	3,387.90
Chadron	48,304.86
Fort Kearny	1,897.25
Fort Robinson	97,795.08
Fremont	21,807.37
Johnson Lake	20,028.92
Kearney Recreation Area	5,597.12
Lake McConaughy	17,393.12
Louisville	12,219.06
Mormon Island	17,176.89
Niobrara	23,326.04
Ponca	57,791.50
Sherman Reservoir	5,671.18
Two Rivers	20,901.88
Victoria Springs	3,553.81
Windmill	13,828.36
Lake Minatare	968.34
Lewis and Clark	1,882.68
Ash Hollow	452.85
Branched Oak	6,786.18
Medicine Creek	1,091.79
Merritt Reservoir	1,161.05
Red Willow	1,100.14
Salt Creek Reservoir	1,000.00
Miscellaneous Areas	<u>2,230.21</u>

Park Non-Operating Income:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Total</u>
Investments	5,508.63	
Surplus Property Sales		
Rent on State-Owned House	<u>10,497.64</u>	16,006.27
Total State Park Cash Fund Income		418,567.70

SPECIAL CASH FUNDS

<u>Source</u>		
Land and Water Conservation Fund		
Federal Reimbursement	1,987,677.25	1,987,677.25
Various Federal Work Make Programs		
Federal Reimbursement	<u>148,025.32</u>	<u>148,025.32</u>
Total Special Cash Fund Income		2,135,702.57

Summary of Cash Income Received During 1975:

Game Fund	5,257,341.88	
State Parks	418,567.70	
Special Cash Fund	<u>2,135,702.57</u>	
Total Cash Income Received During 1975		7,811,612.15

1975 EXPENDITURES

Purpose of Expenditures - Operation Costs

Program: 336 - Wildlife Conservation,  
Enforcement, Promotion and Development

Sub-Program - 01 - Enforcement	789,145.03	
Sub-Program - 02 - Information & Education	788,825.39	
Sub-Program - 03 - General Supervision	699,548.07	
Sub-Program - 04 - Wildlife	386,808.79	
Sub-Program - 05 - Fish	800,225.13	
Sub-Program - 06 - Land Management	601,925.47	
Sub-Program - 07 - Research	<u>140,314.45</u>	4,206,792.33
Game Cash Fund		4,146,451.32
General Fund		35,341.01
Federal Funds - 4334		25,000.00

Program: 325 - Boating Administration, Education  
and Enforcement

Game Cash Fund	107,886.55	
Federal Boat Fund - 4332	<u>37,954.23</u>	145,840.78



Program: 549 - Parks Administration,  
Enforcement & Operation

General Fund Expenditures	1,490,853.75	
Park Cash Fund Expenditures	<u>575,255.88</u>	2,066,109.63

Program: 550 - Federal Aid & Planning Functions

General Fund Expenditures	205,044.13	
Game Cash Fund Expenditures	<u>30,622.57</u>	235,666.70

Program: 617 - Engineering and Area Maintenance

General Fund Expenditures	1,154,339.75	
Game Cash Fund Expenditures	106,369.12	
Park Cash Fund Expenditures	1,795.66	
Federal Cash Fund Expenditures - 4332	<u>67,427.30</u>	1,329,931.83

Program: 666 - Federal Public Employment Program

Federal Cash Fund Expenditures - 4331	<u>32,167.18</u>	32,167.18
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Program: 667 - Comprehensive Employment &  
Training Act, Public Service Employment  
(CETA-PSE)

	<u>63,561.69</u>	63,561.69
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Total Expended Operational Costs

8,080,070.14



<u>Purpose of Expenditure</u> <u>Capital Improvements</u>	<u>Capital</u> <u>General Fund</u>	<u>Game</u> <u>Cash Funds</u>	<u>Land &amp; Water</u> <u>Cash Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
Indian Cave State Park	45,318.06			45,318.06
Ponca State Park	18,534.01			18,534.01
Fort Robinson State Park	41,343.02			41,343.02
Chadron State Park	140,663.84			140,663.84
Fort Kearny	13,675.71			13,675.71
Arbor Lodge	73,764.30			73,764.30
State Hist. Plan Hist. Park	6,000.00			6,000.00
Ash Hollow	13,381.56			13,381.56
Fort Hartsuff	141.26			141.26
Buffalo Bill	77.80			77.80
Fort Atkinson	1,000.00			1,000.00
Schramm Recreation Area	26,783.12			26,783.12
State Recreation Areas	48,217.94	98.90		48,316.84
Fremont Recreation Area	74,258.99			74,258.99
Louisville Recreation Area	4,781.06			4,781.06
Alexandria	3,509.10			3,509.10
Walgren Lake	21,202.39			21,202.39
Lake Ogallala Recreation Area	27,828.80		23,597.74	51,426.54
Lake McConaughy	35,180.62			35,180.62
Branch Oak	34,864.59			34,864.59
Johnson Lake	3,000.00			3,000.00
Pawnee Lake Recreation Area	11,458.79			11,458.79
Sherman	36,296.37			36,296.37
Windmill	18,926.73			18,926.73
Lake Minatare	460.00			460.00
Shady Trail Special Use Area		255.51		255.51
Dogwood Special Use Area		1,839.58		1,839.58
Beaver Bend		1,943.34		1,943.34
Lincoln Central Office		12,247.30		12,247.30
Population Control		932.47		932.47
Acquisition Wildlife Lands General		75,210.00		75,210.00
Alliance District Office		1,200.00		1,200.00
Bassett District Office		8,688.03		8,688.03
Killdeer		9,461.14		9,461.14
Clear Creek Special Use Area		3,749.50		3,749.50
I-80 Tracts		4,734.08		4,734.08
Fairgrounds	6,200.00			6,200.00
Salt Valley Areas General		5,333.87		5,333.87
Yankee Hill Special Use Area		4,173.80		4,173.80
Twin Lakes		1,732.23		1,732.23
Conestoga Special Use Area		14.66		14.66
James Ranch Special Use Area		1,563.07		1,563.07
Special Recreation Areas General		5,762.04		5,762.04
Branched Oak Special Use Area		2,851.64		2,851.64
Cornhusker Special Use Area		604.85		604.85
Wildlife Areas General		1,446.46		1,446.46
Yellow Banks Special Use Area		1,235.75		1,235.75
Bowman Bridge		1,849.79		1,849.79
Pawnee Prairie Special Use Area		1,095.69		1,095.69
Wellfleet Special Use Area		2.88		2.88

Purpose of Expenditure <u>Capital Improvements</u>	Capital <u>General Fund</u>	Game <u>Cash Funds</u>	Land & Water <u>Cash Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pine Glenn		2,387.10		2,387.10
Hays Center		1,333.31		1,333.31
Plattsmouth Special Use Area		1,647.90		1,647.90
Iron Horse Trail		4,702.89		4,702.89
Gilbert Baker Special Use Area		1,779.06		1,779.06
Jeffrey Lake Special Use Area		2,045.67		2,045.67
Sacramento Special Use Area		8,383.13		8,383.13
Pressey Special Use Area		2.88		2.88
Fish Habitat		6,275.16		6,275.16
Spencer Dam		2.88		2.88
Blue Bluffs Special Use Area		243.96		243.96
Smartweed Special Use Area		265.78		265.78
North Platte District Office		1,700.00		1,700.00
Valentine Hatchery		21,343.82		21,343.82
North Platte Hatchery		18,949.59		18,949.59
Rock Creek		30,609.07		30,609.07
Lewellen Trap		9,124.44		9,124.44
Grove Lake		25,025.80		25,025.80
Sub-Total Agency	706,868.06	283,829.02	23,597.74	1,014,314.82
Political Sub-Divisions	605,285.58		1,783,194.38	2,388,479.96
Total Capital Improvement	1,312,153.64	283,829.02	1,806,792.12	3,402,794.78
Total Agency Expenditures - 1975				11,482,864.92



## ENGINEERING

The Engineering Division functions as a support service organization with its activities directed toward the completion of Capital Development improvements of the agency. This requires both long and short range programming for budgeting, feasibility studies, detailed planning, drawings, charts, specifications, cost estimates, surveying, and field engineering supervision of contract construction.

Other duties include an engineering review of all design plans and specifications for projects financed by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Land and Water Fund for the political sub-divisions. Preliminary investigations on proposed project sites and all agency land surveys are preformed by this division. Graphs and charts for other Divisions and Administration are prepared. A brief summary of Engineering Division activities by areas include:

District I Headquarters (Alliance): Electrical wiring for maintenance building.

Arbor Lodge State Historical Park (Nebraska City): Heating and air conditioning of mansion; hot water heating system for greenhouse; grid survey established for planting inventory; working on plans for carriage house remodeling.

Ash Hollow State Historical Park (Lewellen): New water well at headquarters; working on plans for visitors center.

District II office (Bassett): Remodel garage into office; new flagpole.

Blue River State Wayside Area (Dorchester): survey and place boundary corners.

Bowman Lake State Recreation Area (Loup City): survey and place boundary corners.

Branched Oak State Recreation Area (Raymond): contract frame park maintenance building; water well and supply system.

Buffalo Bill's Ranch State Historical Park (North Platte): new irrigation well and revise irrigation well and irrigation system for Wild West Arena for Department of Economic Development.

Chadron State Park (Chadron): completed renovation of swimming pool; completed two large and two small picnic shelters; installed liner in new maintenance building.

Champion Mill State Historical Park (Champion): plans completed for renovation of existing dam and spillway.

Fort Atkinson State Historical Park (Fort Calhoun): plans nearly completed for construction of west segment of barracks.

Fort Kearny State Historical Park (Kearney): built powder magazine.

Fort Robinson State Park (Crawford): renovation of sewage treatment facilities with wastewater lagoons under construction; replacing roof on Commanche Hall; plans and specifications completed for swimming pool; working on plans and improvements to water system.

Fremont State Recreation Area (Fremont): new superintendent's residence completed; modern latrine building built; three campground registration office buildings and five earth pit toilets built.

Grove Trout Rearing Station (Royal): new superintendent's residence under construction; contract awarded for silt settling basins; new aluminum raceway screens were installed; new maintenance building was wired and lights and outlets added at ponds and raceways.

Indian Cave State Park (Barada): adirondack shelters, sign shelters and earth pit toilets were completed; group shelter and two single picnic shelters added. Study underway for potable water well and supply system.

Iron Horse Trail Special Use Area (Beatrice): boundary surveys.

Killdeer Special Use Area (Martell): fishing pier for handicapped completed; vault latrine designed.

Lake McConaughy (Ogallala): new superintendent's residence completed.

Lake Minatare State Recreation Area (Minatare): area lighting designed.

Lake Ogallala State Recreation Area (Ogallala): area development under construction, including well, water supply and hydrants, electrical distribution, campground registration office and shower latrine building. Plans underway for trailer sanitary dump station (also at Martin Bay).

Lewis and Clark State Recreation Area (Crofton): plans completed for new metal maintenance and equipment storage building.

Headquarters Complex (Lincoln): addition to lawn system completed; contract awarded to resurface drives and parking areas.

North Platte Fish Hatchery (North Platte): renovation of sewage disposal systems were designed for Operations and Construction installation. New metal maintenance building under construction.

Ponca State Park (Ponca): two vault latrine buildings completed; campground registration office and two vault latrines under construction.

Rock Creek Fish Hatchery (Parks): new heating system installed in hatchhouse; renovations to water system, modernize electric wiring and electricity to ponds and raceways designed for installation by Operations and Construction.



Schramm Park State Recreation Area (Gretna): interior roads and parking were designed for construction by Operations and Construction personnel; boundary survey completed; addition to water system.

Shady Trail Special Use Area (Crete): boundary surveys.

Sherman Reservoir State Recreation Area (Loup City): metal maintenance building built.

Sign Shop Facility (Lincoln): designed for necessary conversion from storage area.

Smartweed Marsh State Special Use Area (Edgar): designed wildlife ditching and diking built by Operations and Construction Division.

Valentine Fish Hatchery (Valentine): renovation of sewage disposal system designed for construction by Operations and Construction Division; repair water supply reservoir dam, designed for Operations and Construction completion; relining circular raceways completed by hatchery forces.

Walgren Lake State Recreation Area (Hay Springs): supplemental supply irrigation well completed.

Windmill State Wayside Area (Gibbon): swimmers change house and large group picnic shelter completed.

Field construction inspection and coordination was performed on all contracted projects. The division did the staking for these projects and numerous area development services on access roads, parking areas, and erosion-control facilities.

On-site inspection, surveys, and as-built plan drawings have been or will be made on the fish hatchery and trout rearing installations for evaluation of existing facilities and for long range planning.

## FISHERIES DIVISION

The Fisheries Division assumes primary responsibility for maintenance, development and regulations on use of renewable fisheries resources. The broad goal is to manage these resources in the best interest of the people through four main sections--Administration, Management, Production and Research. These sections were reorganized in 1975 to consolidate various fishery functions into one division.

The Administrative Section plans, organizes, directs, and controls approved programs, policies, and operational procedures of the division. Special permits issued include:

Missouri River Commercial Fishing	228
Bait Vendor	204
Nonresident Fish Dealer	6
Commercial Put and Take	8
Private Fish Culturist	31

### COMMERCIAL FISHERIES SPECIALIST

Duties include development and administration of a statewide program of private pond management, management of the state's commercial fishery resource, and the acquisition and disposition of excess property for use by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Although there were not enough fish available for stocking in private ponds, 54 farm ponds encompassing 1,213.5 acres were inspected by Fisheries personnel, with assists from Resource Services and Wildlife Division staff. A new farm pond publication, entitled "Ponds for Nebraskans", was produced as a lift-out in NEBRASKAland magazine to provide needed information on private pond management.

Most time is spent in managing the state's commercial fisheries resource. A survey of the commercial fishing industry in Nebraska is being carried out under a federal project funded by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Statistics are collected annually from bait vendors, private fish culturists, put-and-take operators, nonresident fish dealers, and Missouri River commercial fishermen. Data is used to determine the extent of commercial fishing and to better manage the resource for a sustained yield.

The second project to determine the feasibility of channel catfish cage culture in irrigation canals was completed in 1975. Three fish cages were placed in irrigation canals at each of two sites in Phelps County. Each pre-fabricated cage measured three cubic meters. They were stocked May 29, 1975, with 4,032 channel catfish, 4 - 16" long. Fish were fed a 32% protein catfish chow daily and harvested after 112 days, with a 97.4% average recovery rate. Total weight gain was 1,730.3 pounds with a conversion ration of 1.73 and 1.94. Production costs were 90¢ per pound of gain. Cage catfish culture in irrigation canals is feasible, but costs must be reduced before it can be commercially profitable. To produce edible size catfish in one growing season in Nebraska, it is necessary to start with 8-inch fish or larger.



Another commercial fishery resource project will determine the population dynamics of the commercial fishery resources of the unchannelized and stabilized Missouri River. The unchannelized area of the river lies downstream from Yankton, S.D. to Ponca State Park and from Ponca State Park to South Sioux City. These areas of the river have had little study so data collected in this area will be a valuable aid in making wise management decisions to protect this fishery resource. Hoop nets and electro fishing gear were used there to collect a total of 2,133 channel catfish, 21 flathead catfish, 663 carp, 56 bigmouth buffalo, and 146 smallmouth buffalo. Spines were taken from the catfish and scale samples were taken from the carp and buffalo for age and growth analysis.

#### WATER RESOURCE ANALYST

Reorganization of the Fisheries Division created a supervisor of Fish Production and a supervisor of Fish Management and led to deletion of two specialist positions, whose appropriate responsibilities were changed to a remaining specialist position entitled Water Resource Analyst. Primary responsibilities include liaison between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, federal construction agencies, and various state agencies and organizations as related to water resource development projects and carrying out investigation of pollution related fish kills, plus coordination with the State Department of Environmental Control.

The past year saw a continuation of input into the planning on two Bureau of Reclamation irrigation projects -- the North Loup on the Calamus River and the O'Neill on the Niobrara River. The apparent death of the Midstate Project brought about a greatly intensified effort to begin construction of the remaining two projects, particularly the O'Neill. A new Reclamation project also surfaced during the past year in the Frenchman-Cambridge Division, involving an attempt to salvage the irrigation district which is supplied by water from Enders Reservoir. To make up the water quota which Enders can no longer supply, the Bureau proposes to line existing canals and laterals and build additional storage reservoirs on Stinking Water Creek.

One of the bright spots of 1975 was the cooperation received from the U.S. Corps of Engineers in initiating the environmental gap program. Hopefully, some restoration of habitat diversity on the channelized Missouri River will result from the numerous phone calls, letters and meetings. It is also significant that the Corps has asked environmental interests to prepare a report pertaining to mitigation for environmental losses which occurred on the river as a result of channelization. This report is currently being prepared under the authority of the 1958 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

Meetings were attended and input was provided to the Corps of Engineers Umbrella Study for the Missouri River. This critical study encompasses the River from Sioux City up to the headwaters in Montana and addresses three major problems: (1) power production, (2) water logging, and (3) bank erosion.

Considerable time was spent keeping abreast of power industry projects. Primary concerns are fish mortality associated with intake



structure design and operation and the uncertainty of the impact of thermal effluent. Sections 316(a) and (b) of PL92-500 make provisions for owners of electric generating facilities to demonstrate the EPA standards are more stringent than necessary to insure the protection and propagation of fish and wildlife communities affected by the normal operation of the plant. If approved, these demonstration studies pave the way for operation with lower standards. Such studies are being reviewed for Nebraska Public Power District's Cooper and Gerald Gentleman stations and for Omaha Public Power District's Fort Calhoun and Nebraska City stations.

Additionally, the two stations which are currently under construction, Gerald Gentleman and Nebraska City, required input in the form of environmental impact statement reviews, beneficial use of heated effluent, and other planning stage details.

Attention was directed towards pollution related problems as they surfaced. A specific pollutant was suspected in 21 fish kills investigated, involving the death of an estimated 59,500 fish of which approximately 13,000 were game fish. These figures do not include investigations or mortality where winter-kill was suspected. Virtually all water quality investigations were carried out in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Control, whose jurisdictional responsibility includes maintaining a quality aquatic environment throughout the state.

#### FISH MANAGEMENT SECTION

The Fish Management Section's major assignments are perpetuation and development of Nebraska's renewable aquatic resources now and in the future. This means management of all public lakes (over 130,000 surface acres) and all streams (4,000 miles).

##### Fish Population Surveys

Surveys were conducted on 67 lakes and reservoirs to determine species distribution, relative abundance, sizes, growth rates, survival of stocked fish, opportunities for habitat improvement, and evaluation of management techniques, all to provide a basis for regulation and need for fish stocking. Thirteen streams were surveyed to collect information on relative abundance of desirable fish and stocking survival.

##### Partial Renovation

During 1975, four lakes were partially renovated--a chemical treatment used in situations where panfish are over-populated, predator fish numbers are reduced, and non-game fish usually are not a problem. Normally, additional predator game fish are stocked after treatment.

##### Complete Renovations

Complete renovation is a chemical treatment used when fish populations are unproductive of desirable fish and where good control over reinfestation of undesirable fish is possible. During 1975, 14 lakes were completely renovated and are in the process of being restocked with desirable game fish, as were 67 ponds. Most of the ponds were in the watershed above state lakes that were renovated and were treated to prevent contamination of the renovated state lake. Those capable of supporting game fish were restocked.



#### Habitat Improvement

Habitat improvement in lakes included: aeration to prevent winter kill on four lakes at Fremont and on the lake at Victoria Springs; placement of fish attractors in four Interstate lakes, the Gateway Conservation Club Pond, Goose Lake, Louisville Lakes Nos. 1A and 2. In addition, time was spent with Lower Elkhorn Natural Resource District and S.C.S. in an effort to leave timber in Maskenthine Reservoir and with the U.S. Corps of Engineers in regard to leaving timber in Papio Site 10. A culvert was installed in Otter Creek so the migratory rainbow trout could move from Lake McConaughy to the stream.

#### Fish Tagging

Tagging provides information on stocking success, seasonal migration, harvest and population size. Trout were marked in Nine Mile Creek and Two Rivers Trout Lake; largemouth bass were marked in Papio Site 16; northern pike in Pelican Lake; and channel catfish in North Platte River. All were marked to make population estimates. Tagging to permit evaluation of stocking survival was done with lakes and with rainbow trout stocked in Boardman Creek. Largemouth Bass were tagged in Skyview Lake to evaluate hooking mortality.

#### Fish Culture Activities

District personnel assisted the state hatcheries with walleye, sauger, northern pike, and rainbow trout spawn-taking operations and miscellaneous fish stockings.

#### Fish Salvage

Game fish were salvaged from several irrigation canals, including the Ainsworth, Cortland, Smithfield, Culbertson and Frenchman-Cambridge canals. In addition, fish were transferred from Box Butte Reservoir and two ponds.

#### New Fish Species

Some 25,301 striped bass were stocked in Lake Minatare.

#### Creel Census

A complete angler-use record was obtained from angler reports on the Two Rivers trout lake. In addition, creel census work is being carried out on Nine Mile Creek, East Branch of Verdigre Creek, and Conestoga Lake. Aerial flights were conducted on the North Platte River to determine fishing pressure during the catfish fishing season. Creel censuses were carried out on Pelican Lake and Harlan County Reservoir to determine harvest during peak periods. Harvest information was collected on the length of walleye taken from the southwest reservoirs. Information collected indicated that a size limit on walleye was not warranted.

#### Vegetation Control

Victoria Springs, Pibel and Killdeer lakes were treated to control the aquatic vegetation in areas where it was causing a nuisance to fishermen.

#### Miscellaneous

The Lewellen Weir was operated from March 13 until July 1 and from October 15 to November 18, and rainbow trout spawners were collected.

## FISH PRODUCTION

The fish hatchery section is primarily responsible for producing or obtaining the species, numbers, and sizes of fish requested by the fish management section, including transportation, stocking, assisting in disease diagnosis, coordinating with federal hatchery production, canal salvage, and trades with other states.

Four production units were operated through 1975 with 20 permanent employees. Temporary employees are utilized during peak production periods and for some weekend duty. In addition, the weir at Lewellen was utilized to collect eggs from rainbow spawners from migratory stocks.

Rock Creek Hatchery near Parks conducts all trout hatching and fingerling production, in addition to about one-third of the catchable trout and specialized warmwater fingerling production.

Grove Rearing Station near Royal produced the remainder of the state's catchable trout production. Fingerling rainbow are transferred from Rock Creek at approximately the 5-inch size for rearing to catchable size.

Valentine Hatchery at Valentine is primarily a warmwater station, but is sometimes used for trout holding and distribution.

North Platte Hatchery is strictly a warmwater facility and aids in distribution of salvage catfish.

All hatcheries function as public use facilities and receive significant visitation especially from school groups, etc. One full time hatchery biologist conducts fish health checks and federal disease certification sampling, in addition to assisting with various special problems. During 1975 a significant project was the development of spawner trout holding facility and egg eyeing battery at the Lewellen weir.

### Two Rivers Put-and-Take Trout Lake

Two Rivers Trout Lake was open April 1 - October 19, 1975 for its 15th year of operation. Some 196,033 trout were stocked, and 49,286 fishermen caught 185,150 of them for a 94.4% return. Trout stocked averaged 11.2 inches long. Total costs were \$100,463.67 excluding administrative costs of Parks and Law Enforcement. Income from sale of trout tags were \$98,522.

Pollution control procedures are intensely pursued at trout production stations because of intense culture procedures and high poundage of fish produced. Approximately 4% of the operational budget is required at these stations for this activity.

Projects of technique and production improvement are an important role if management requests for fish are to be met. During 1975, beginning work was conducted in the development of striped bass spawn collection and hatching. Also considerable time was spent trying to improve the collection and propagation of migratory trout (previously alluded to) from the North Platte drainage stock.



Fish produced and stocked in Nebraska waters is summarized in the following table:

Coldwater Species	Fry	Fingerling	Adv. Fgl.	Adult	Pounds
Brown Trout		68,820			320
Migratory RBT		102,804			204
Domestic RBT (catchable)				215,734	116,609 (58.3 tons)

#### Warmwater Species

Northern Pike*	1,594,150	96,918	105,120		
Walleye*	2,660,250	290,939	66,864		
Yellow Perch		18,000			
Rock Bass		152,502			
Redear		43,390			
Bluegill		119,500			
Crappie		2,600			
Largemouth bass		47,420	1,771		
Striped bass		25,301			
Fathead Minnows		142,299			
Gn Shiners Min		6,640			
	4,254,400	1,117,123	173,755	215,734	

GRAND TOTALS -----5,761,012

\* 24,932,506 northern pike eggs were collected in cooperation with U.S.F.W.S. of which approximately 6 million were required to meet state production and trade commitments. The remaining eggs were placed in federal system.

\* 13,860,000 walleye eggs were collected from wild brood fish of which 11,616,000 were required to meet state production and trade commitments. The remainder were placed in the federal system.

Fish recieved from other states and federal hatcheries are summarized in the following table;

Species	Fry	Fgl.	Adv. Fgl.	Adult	Source
Striped Bass	2,000,000				Virginia Fish & Game
Rainbow Trout				74,873	Crawford NFH
Rainbow Trout		85,000			McNenny NFH
Rainbow Trout				7,200	Gavins Pt NFH
Brown Trout				55,935	Crawford NFH
Brook Trout		5,112			Wyoming Game & Fish
Channel Catfish		49,957			Texas F & W
Channel Catfish			11,605		Kansas F & G
Bluegill		66,600			Gavins Pt NFH
Largemouth Bass		45,355			Gavins Pt NFH
Walleye		88,800			Gavins Pt NFH
Sauger		1,400			Gavins Pt NFH
Redear		12,885			Uvalde, Tx NFH
	2,000,000	355,109	11,605	138,008	

During 1975 fish trades were consummated with the states of Virginia (walleye and northern pike egg and fry for striped bass), Kansas (northern pike fry for channel catfish), Texas (northern pike eggs for channel catfish), Wyoming, (brook trout).

Fish are salvaged and transferred during periods of declining flows, primarily from irrigation canals, and restocked. They are summarized in the following table:

Species	Fgl.	Adv. Fgl.	Adult	Lbs.
Carp				52,210
Flathead Catfish		1,386		
Channel Catfish	135,728		310	
Walleye		440		
Northern Pike			159	
Largemouth Bass	281		463	
Bluegill	7,250		230	
Gizzard Shad			68	
Crappie			73	
Yellow Perch	5,050			
Golden Shiner	200			
B/Bullhead	100			
White Bass		314		
Rainbow Trout			218	
	148,609	2,140	1,521	52,210

A public aquarium was operated approximately six months at the Valentine Hatchery. This popular attraction served over 12,000 visitors in 1975.

#### FISHERIES RESEARCH

During 1975 the Research Division, which formerly included both fish and game researchers, a chemist, and the library, disbanded. Fisheries personnel were merged into the Fishery Division, while game researchers and the chemist went to the Game Division. Responsibility for the library was assumed by the Planning and Programming Division. Activities of fishery research personnel were not changed.

The purpose of research is to assist fishery managers by refining management techniques or by providing new information useful to them in doing their work. Studies ranged from measuring the effects of hot water discharged by two nuclear power plants on fishes in the Missouri River to monitoring the rainbow trout population in the upper North Platte River drainage, including Lake McConaughy. A study to determine the angler harvest of fishes in Nebraska waters was also started.

##### Rainbow Trout Study

The objective of the rainbow trout study conducted in the panhandle is to develop a comprehensive coldwater management plan for the entire



upper North Platte River drainage including Lake McConaughy. Basically the management plan will include (1) a description of the coldwater habitat in McConaughy Reservoir and the North Platte Valley streams, (2) recommendations to manage both the habitat and the rainbow population in the streams which support natural reproduction and (3) a stocking plan for the coldwater streams that do not support rainbow trout reproduction.

During 1975, some 136,264 eggs were collected from spring run and fall run McConaughy rainbow trout. These eggs produced 102,804 1-to-2 inch fingerlings which were stocked throughout the North Platte River drainage. With an estimated 20 percent survival rate, approximately 20,500 of these rainbow survived to 7 to 9 inches and migrated into the reservoir during the spring of 1976. Streams stocked with these fingerlings included; Clear Creek, Lonergan Creek, Wildhorse Creek, Stuckenhole Creek and Dry Spotted Tail Creek.

Trout hatched from Lake McConaughy rainbow eggs are genetically better adapted to the North Platte Valley streams. In the past, the McConaughy rainbow has out performed hatchery-origin rainbow in these streams. Therefore, the McConaughy rainbow represents the best egg source and is used exclusively in the fingerling stocking program in the North Platte River drainage.

Periodical water quality data along with oxygen and temperature information were collected from Lake McConaughy during June through October. This information was relayed to anglers through graphic illustrations, which showed oxygen and temperature conditions in the lake. Periodical stream temperature data were collected from streams throughout the drainage.

Work continued on a computer model simulating the Lake McConaughy trout habitat. Water samples from the lake were analyzed for orthophosphate, total phosphate, nitrate-nitrogen, kjeldahl nitrogen, ammonia nitrogen, turbidity, alkalinity, and conductivity. In addition to these parameters, samples were also analyzed for dissolved solids, total solids, chlorophyll, and chemical oxygen demand. Information was used in the model which, when completed, will help predict the fate of the rainbow trout habitat in Lake McConaughy.

#### Thermal Study

A long-term fisheries thermal study continued during 1975. Field work began in 1970 and was completed in 1975. The study is designed to determine if hot water discharged from two nuclear power plants influences the numbers, kinds, movement patterns, age and growth, and food habits of fishes in the Missouri River. This is a multi-agency study with the Game and Parks coordinating the overall investigation, as well as conducting the fishery portion. In addition to Commission work with fishes, other agencies are investigating the macroinvertebrates, periphyton, temperature, chemistry, and larval fish entrainment. The Nebraska Public Power District and the Omaha Public Power District, owners of the two plants, contributed \$42,000 each for completion of this study. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's portion of the total \$84,000 was \$36,800.

From April through November, fish were collected weekly by boat-shocking and seining, and bi-weekly collections by hoop-netting, telephone-shocking, and box traps. During February and March, additional collections were made for the fish movement study.



Also, scales and spines were "read" for age and growth analysis of channel catfish, flathead catfish, river carp suckers, sauger, buffalo, and carp collected during 1974 and 1975. A computer program was developed to analyze age and growth results. Stomach contents of channel catfish, flathead catfish, sauger, and flathead catfish collected during 1974 and 1975 were identified and weighed for food habit analysis. Tagging information was recorded and letters were sent out to fishermen that had returned tags. All boat-shocking data was keypunched on computer cards. Researchers began tabulation of the boat-shocking, hoop-net, telephone-shocking, seining, box trap, stomach analysis, and recapture data.

#### Creel Census

A statewide mail fishery creel census was set up to determine annual fishing pressure occurring in Nebraska, fishing pressure on major waters, harvest of major fish species and to develop a means of detecting changes in angling trends through periodic censuses.

Approximately 12,000 questionnaires were mailed to licensed anglers selected at random from the 1974 permit sales books. Questionnaires were sequence numbered so a record could be kept of the ones returned. Anglers who returned the original questionnaire and answered that either juvenile or special free permit fishermen were present in their household were sent additional census forms for those persons to complete. The returned questionnaires were coded and cards were keypunched to facilitate the computation analysis of the harvest data.

Questionnaires were mailed twice with each mailing covering a six month period. The first mailing in July requested harvest information for the period January 1 through June 30, 1975. A second mailing was scheduled for 1976, to request harvest data for the second six months of 1975, using the same list of persons as for the first mailing.

#### Additional Research

Work progressed on two publications on heavy metal concentrations in fishes from selected watersheds in Nebraska. One paper relates the effect of motor boating on lead concentrations in crappie, bluegill, and largemouth bass in five eastern Nebraska lakes. The other surveys heavy metal concentrations in channel catfish from several watersheds.

A preliminary study was done to devise suitable means of evaluating maintenance fish stocking programs. Objectives were to determine the most practical means of determining the value anglers derive from such stockings and the minimum stocking rates required to provide a fishery of good quality. Species being considered were northern pike, walleye, and channel catfish.

## INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Purposes of the I&E Division are (1) to communicate to external and internal publics the objectives, policies, and activities of the Commission; (2) to develop reciprocal understanding and goodwill with all publics regarding appreciation and utilization of the state's natural resources, and (3) to provide informational, educational, and support services for Commission activities.

"Missions" necessary to accomplish these purposes are four-fold:

1. Public Relations - To inform, influence, and involve people in wildlife and recreational programs of the Commission and to insure input by the people in development and operation of these programs;
2. Internal Communications - To develop in the employees a greater effectiveness and cooperation through (1) communicating the objectives, policies, and activities of the Commission, and, (2) to develop communication channels to stimulate feedback of ideas, suggestions, and philosophies;
3. Information & Education - To develop and maintain optimum coverage of all Game and Parks Commission activities and programs and to provide professional conservation education services to all publics;
4. Information & Education Services - To provide services such as: (a) printing; (b) mailing and shipping; (c) photographic development and library services; (d) visual and library services; (e) professional editing, photo, art and writing advice; (f) other I&E services as they relate to the agency's programs as described under the purposes of the division.

I & E completed its decentralization program with the transfer of two regional representatives to the District I, II, and III offices in Alliance, Bassett, and Norfolk.

1975 was quite a year for the I&E office in Omaha. The office moved three times during the year and gained two new faces.

The original office was in the direct path of the May 6 tornado, which caused extensive damage to the building, our equipment, and materials. Luckily no office personnel were injured. After several moves, the office returned to the original building on November 10, seven months after the storm.

General office activities increased considerably in 1975 as more people became aware of the office, its location, and its functions. Over 125 programs were handled by office personnel. Program topics ranged from wildlife and conservation to habitat and outdoor recreation, reaching an estimated 3,200 people.



Telephone inquiries increased over the year with a conservative estimate of 15,200 calls handled. Walk-in traffic also increased in spite of the moves. In addition to those buying hunting and fishing permits, over 2,550 people came in with countless questions and request. Office personnel certified over 200 instructors in the Hunter Safety Program.

In addition to the daily activities, office personnel do weekly radio shows on WOW and KFAB in Omaha, KOTD in Plattsmouth, KNCY in Nebraska City, and KTNC in Falls City. A weekly TV news segment is aired every Sunday night on Channel 7, KETV, plus a monthly TV show on Channel 3, KMTV.

Office personnel work on TV film for the Commission's TV effort as well as outdoor news film and script for the three Omaha stations. Personnel also contribute to the Commission's publications.

Several habitat development programs were carried out by office personnel. These included brush piles for fish at Fremont Lakes State Recreation Area, tree plantings at the Two Rivers FFA Farm, tree piles at Two Rivers State Recreation Area and brush piles in the nature center of a school.

Hunter safety, boating safety, conservation education and administration of youth work programs were the major areas of involvement by the education section.

The hunter safety program had an increase of 632 instructors, bringing the total to 2,234 and 10,902 students were certified bringing that total to nearly 21,000 students. The newsletter "Trigger Guard" was revised to be a monthly feature in "Afield & Afloat", and a new film "A Question of Hunting" was added for instructor use.

The self-contained instruction unit for boating safety was used by many schools with 3,024 students successfully completing the course.

The Game and Parks Commission acted as the state sponsor for the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) and administered the program through subcontracting with the City of Lincoln. The education section also administered the Summer Program for the Economically Disadvantaged Youth (SPEDY), which afforded the agency 140 summer workers at various state park facilities. The total of these two federal grants was \$150,000 with no matching requirement from the Game and Parks Commission.

Some 300 teachers attended in-service workshops conducted by education staff in the use of the 4-5-6 grade environmental education curriculum. A few of these teachers did not receive materials since the State Department of Education decided not to reprint them because of budgetary problems. National Wildlife Week activities were also coordinated and kits were distributed to 1,300 teachers and youth leaders.

The outdoor encounter program was staffed by four new employees stationed in Chadron and paid through a CETA contract. Several groups of senior high school students from across the state participated in this outdoor/environmental education program.



Production of wood ducks was below expectations and one FFA chapter cooperated in the FFA wood duck project.

Miscellaneous activities included magazine story writing, television and radio programs, program presentations, coordination of slide and film library.

Carrying on a vital news program is an important function of the division. Releases were geared to local usage on an "affected" area basis, plus statewide, all-media releases on items of statewide interest.

The Art Section provided illustrations for a wide range of purposes, with about 50 percent of its time devoted to artwork and layout for NEBRASKAland Magazine. This includes about three major pieces of art per month, plus several small illustrations, as well as supervising the complete format of the magazine through all stages of production. The section is also responsible for design of other Commission brochures and pamphlets, and illustrations for slide shows and television productions. The staff painted some showcards and signs for use at the State Fair and other events requiring display materials.

During the year, Publications wrote, edited and supervised production of a variety of pamphlets and brochures for other divisions and I & E use, as well as handling dissemination of news. Some of these publications are done annually, such as the hunting, boating, and fishing guides. Others are revised, updated, and reprinted as needed, and still others are one-time publications.

Letterheads and envelopes were developed for the individual district office and printed in-house. Increased use of one-color letterhead, printed in-house, was encouraged for bulk mailings originating in the central office.

Major technical publications included a research study on grouse, to be published in 1976; Part 1 of a research study on blood and tissue analysis, and a fisheries study on the state's fish hatchery system.

Some other publications produced included: Facts About the Pheasant, Salt Valley, Ash Hollow, Camp Guide, How to Raise Pheasants, Affirmative Action, Student Shooting Handbook Annual Report, Mourning Dove regulations, a revise on Mourning Dove...Game Bird Extraordinary, Buffalo Bill Ranch, Hunting, Fishing, and Boating guides, plus others.

The Commission again published the NEBRASKAland Calendar of Color under an agreement with Collectors Institute, Ltd., of Omaha which provided for that company to print and distribute the calendars and pay a royalty to the Commission.

Nebraska Afield & Afloat, the Commission's monthly tabloid went to an average of 48,431 persons each month, including NEBRASKAland Magazine subscribers, hunter safety instructors, barbershops, and the news media.

NEBRASKAland Magazine published 624 pages in the 12 issues during 1975. Of these, 328 featured four-color illustrations, and another 32



pages included at least two colors. Subscription revenue totaled \$205,745, compared to \$186,105 in 1974. There continued to be subscribers in all 50 states, plus 47 foreign countries. Advertising brought in a total of \$22,800.

NEBRASKAland again doubled as a means to produce attractive full-color publications at a reduced costs. During the year, seven reprints, primarily for other divisions, were produced as a part of the magazine. These included: Sand Hills Wildlife Lands, Crane River, Deer of Nebraska, Guide to the South Platte (in cooperation with the South Platte United Chambers of Commerce), Historic Webster County (in cooperation with Webster County), Southeast Wildlife Lands, and Pronghorn Antelope. Each 16-page section ran as a part of the magazine, with extensive overruns for brochures of from 10,000 to 50,000 copies.

The Printing Section handles the printing of all commission materials that are not done commercially, plus running labels for mailing lists retained on Addressograph. During 1975, the section ran 1,499 jobs on the two offset presses. This work involved use of 5,412 masters and required 2,790,926 sheets of paper. The Mail Section handled 424,333 pieces of mail in 1975, and postage amounted to \$56,463.87, plus \$2,856.56 for bulk. Postage required for mailing NEBRASKAland magazine amounted to \$15,505.57. In the interest of speed and economy, the division again used United Parcel Service (UPS) for much of its mail. UPS delivers any package from one pound up at rates lower than those of the U.S. Post Office. UPS coverage is not yet as widespread as the Post Office, consequently some parcels are still sent through the Post Office. UPS charges were \$3,843.71.

In 1975, some 7,152 black-and-white exposures and 16,544 color exposures were made. In addition to illustrating NEBRASKAland, they were used to illustrate various Commission publications and slide series. They were also used to fill requests for illustrative material received from numerous firms in the public relations and publishing fields. Photo Services received 379 requests from Commission personnel for film and prints. During 1975, 694 rolls of film were requested, 608 rolls of film were processed, and 761 prints were made ranging from "contacts" to 11 by 14's.

The television and radio unit completed production of weekly one-hour "Outdoor Nebraska" television programs, which were aired on the Nebraska Educational Television Network each Monday night. The final program of the series was shown on March 31. At that time, the staff of two photographers began gathering film for the 1975-76 television series which would be 30 minutes in length and air 52 weeks instead of 26 weeks. Starting date for the 1975 series was Tuesday, September 7. The other format change eliminated the phone-in "question and answer" portion of the show.

In late 1975, 16mm movie cameras were purchased for district I&E personnel. This enables staff located around the state to provide news film for the weekly television program.

As in previous television efforts the goal of "Outdoor Nebraska" is to keep Nebraskans informed on Game Commission activities and the status of outdoor recreation and natural resources in the state. No production of feature films was undertaken during 1975.

District personnel also made regular personal appearances on television programs produced by commercial television stations. North Platte personnel made monthly appearances on the "Focus" program at KHGI-TV in Kearney and "Channel 2 Views" at KNOP-TV in North Platte. Lincoln personnel were seen monthly on "Area 5 Affairs" on KHAS-TV in Hastings.

In its 21st year, the Outdoor Nebraska weekly radio program was broadcast on 37 radio stations in Nebraska. Two stations in Iowa and two in Kansas also carried the 15-minute program. Interviews with Commission staff and other specialists emphasized the need for public awareness of the changing environment and important conservation management principles.



## IN-SERVICE TRAINING

In-service training is devoted to bettering present performance and to preparing employees for positions of higher responsibility. To achieve this purpose, training operates in many areas, beginning with orientation of new employees. Altogether 29 new employees attended a two-day orientation program where responsibilities of each organizational unit were outlined.

Specialized training is provided to those staff members with specific job-related needs. During the year 13 employees were enrolled in workshops and short courses which ranged from cabinet making to wildlife population simulation modeling. In addition, specialized college level coursework was completed by 14 staff members under the tuition assistance program. These semester-long classes ranged from computer science to financial accounting.

Additional projects and activities of in-service training during 1975 included: (1) Issuing and updating of the Handbook of Information, Policies and Procedures; (2) reviewing and evaluating conferences and other sessions to determine their value for training; (3) maintaining each employee's record of training; (4) counseling with employees, and (5) developing an affirmative action program. The affirmative action program provides for the recruitment and hiring of minorities through contacts with minority organizations across the state. Under this program steps have also been taken to insure that job selection procedures are non-discriminatory.

Planning was begun for future training programs, including a Commission-wide defensive driving program, a workshop in biological statistics, and a pre-retirement seminar.

Responsibilities of the Law Enforcement Division and its conservation officers are many and varied. In some aspects, "people management" has reached such proportions that in many eyes this is the primary duty of the conservation officer. The observance and watchfulness of the conduct, safety, and welfare of human beings engaged in the activities pertaining to wildlife, boating, or using the areas and facilities provided in the state park system are basic and are all a part of the officers daily routine. The principal function of the special duty conservation officers is to patrol the areas within the state park system, to provide additional law enforcement coverage to the areas and service to the public. Addition of these officers has permitted area conservation officers to apply more of their time and effort to other matters in their assigned areas and has helped simplify the shifting of officers to areas where violation potential is greater or more prevalent.

Conservation officers are also called upon by other law enforcement agencies to assist in the investigation and/or apprehension of subjects involved in various unlawful acts. In addition to the law enforcement activities, the operation of the departments two-way radio communications system and an aircraft are also functions of this division.

Additional responsibilities of the Conservation Officer require him to perform many duties which are of a non-enforcement nature, especially those of an educational or informational nature in which he can assist both youth and adults. It is through these outlets and programs that much of the fishing, hunting, boating, and outdoor public is served. Officers conduct and take part in teaching boating and hunter safety courses and in programs for sportsmens groups, youth groups, churches, school, civic organizations, radio and television programs, exhibits at fairs, various community functions, and sports and vacation shows. During 1975 officers participated in 481 meetings for various groups, in addition to taking part in the numerous sports, home and travel shows, fairs, radio and television programs. Officers also make or assist in making investigations and surveys concerning populations of wildlife, the management of fish, game, game animals, game birds, migratory birds, other species of wildlife, the stocking or transplanting of fish and game and pollution problems. As a part of their field activities officers contacted and checked 27,228 hunters, 53,984 fishermen, and 489 trappers. They inspected 23,599 boats and made 7,286 miscellaneous contacts most on state parks areas. Some 2,762 complaints were investigated.

There were 23 known or reported hunter casualties during 1975, with 7 fatalities and 16 injuries. In 14 instances, the victim was shot by another person, and 9 were self-inflicted. Firearms involved in the casualties included 10 shotguns, 11 rifles, and 2 handguns. Ages of those involved were:

	<u>Shooter</u>	<u>Victim</u>
Less than 15 years of age	4	8
16 - 18	2	1
19 - 21	1	4
22 - 26	2	2
27 - 31	3	4
32 - 36	-	-
37 - 41	1	3
42 - 46	1	-
47 - 51	-	-
52 - 56	-	-
Over 56	1	1



During 1975, the Law Enforcement Division had a maximum complement of 58 conservation officers, including a division chief, five district supervisors, one officer pilot, and 51 officers. Officers drove a total of 1,629,072 miles. Average mileage for the total miles driven was 13.66 per gallon of gasoline. Average cost per mile of vehicle operation was .0654 cents per mile, which represents all fuel, oil, grease, tires, service, repairs, and special equipment.

Arrests total 3,220 during 1975, for 3354 offenses. Of these 3,152 were found guilty by the courts. The conviction percentage was 97.9% for all arrests, and 99.4% for cases actually brought to trial.

#### HUNTING

Loaded shotgun in or on a vehicle	380
Hunting with the aid of artificial light attached to vehicle	222
Attempting to take/possess game birds or animals in closed season	126
Attempting to take or possess game birds or animals without permit	94
Hunting without permission or trespassing	73
Hunting from a public road	57
Failure to tag game	37
No waterfowl stamp	26
Overbag limit of game	25
No upland game bird stamp	19
Taking protected species	17
Hunting on a refuge	17
Accessory to game violation	16
Hunting from a vehicle	14
Failure to wear hunter orange	8
Hunting big game in wrong unit	7
Taking game by illegal means	6
Failure to check deer at correct check station	5
Miscellaneous	54
Total	1203

#### FISHING

Fishing, attempting to take or possess fish without a permit	702
Possession of under size fish	85
Too many hooks or lines	40
Taking fish illegally	23
Overbag limit of fish	21
Fishing in closed area	11
Snagging or attempting to snag fish	10
Non resident fishing on resident permit	9
Failure to display fishing permit	6
Miscellaneous	19
Total	932

#### BOATING

Improperly equipped vessel	345
No boat numbers, symbols or registration	61
Towing skier without mirror or observer	43
Not wearing USCG approved life jackets in Gavins Point Tailwaters	31
No life jackets on child under the age of 12	14
No lights on boat after sunset	14
Failure to display international divers flag	5
Miscellaneous	16
Total	529

## OTHER

Driving or parking in a restricted area	219
Littering	140
Drinking on state property	92
Speeding	35
Minor in possession of alcoholic beverages	31
Possession of a controlled substance	20
Swimming in closed park area	17
Reckless/careless driving	15
Failure to stop at stop sign	13
Being present where a controlled substance is being used	10
Target shooting from a public road	9
Entering closed park area	8
No vehicle registration	6
Miscellaneous	60
Total	675

## BULLFROGS

Bullfrogs in closed season	2
Taking bullfrogs with a firearm	2
Taking bullfrogs without a permit	1
Total	5

## TRAPPING

Furbearers in closed season	3
Trapping without a permit	2
Failure to run traps every 24 hours	2
Failure to keep complete fur records	1
No fur buyers permit	1
Trespass	1
Total	10

Total of all Offenses 3354

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>
TOTAL ARRESTS AND SUMMONS ISSUED:	2642	2735	2491	3130	3220
Not guilty	14	9	20	17	21
Cases dismissed	27	18	29	47	47
No complaints filed	21	6	24	18	18
Total Convictions:	2580	2702	2418	3048	3134

Total Fines:	\$44,702.90	\$47,721.50	\$50,567.00	\$ 62,885.00	\$ 64,762.00
Total Costs:	\$14,064.30	\$16,073.47	\$19,751.91	\$ 24,695.83	\$ 25,344.18
Total Liq. Dam.	<u>\$10,930.00</u>	<u>\$ 9,740.00</u>	<u>\$13,635.00</u>	<u>\$ 17,455.00</u>	<u>\$ 17,775.00</u>
	\$69,697.20	\$73,534.97	\$83,953.91	\$105,035.83	\$107,881.18

## AIRCRAFT RENTAL

<u>Purpose of Rental</u>	<u>Account #</u>	<u>Hours of Flying Time</u>	
Law Enforcement Patrol & Orientation	2332-40	202.00	\$2,492.16
Antelope Depredations	W-15-R	59.70	740.89
Waterfowl Count	W-15-R	59.20	734.71
Fowl Cholera (Sacramento Game Farm)	W-17-D-28	16.75	207.03
Whooping Cranes	W-15-R	12.70	156.97
Goose Count (Brown & Rock counties)	W-15-R	5.50	67.98
Transporting Pheasant Chicks	2332-70	3.75	46.35
Fisheries	2332-59	2.35	29.05
Antelope Count	W-15-R	80.45	994.36
TOTALS		442.40	\$5,469.50

## CHAMPION AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS REPORT

The Champion airplane was flown 442.40 hours during 1975. This is a decrease of 93.75 hours from 1974. This decrease was attributed to the enforcement of the 50-hour week for the conservation officers and by the rental of another airplane for surveys in the Panhandle.

Total operation expenses for the airplane were \$5,469.50. The engine had to be overhauled during the year at a cost of \$2,646.58. There was no depreciation expense, as the craft has reached the residual value of \$2,095.28. Cost of operation was \$12.36 per hour, plus insurance.

There were 37 arrest made with the use of the airplane. It was also used for numerous other purposes by the Commission during the year.

## RADIO COMMUNICATIONS BREAKDOWN OF OPERATION COSTS

Mobile radio contract with Shaffer Communications	2332-41	\$14,827.00
	Parks	3,481.00
Other radio equipment, service & tower repairs not covered by contract		111.00
Move Auburn tower to Peru		994.68
Upgrading present equipment on towers		1,728.80
Installation and removals of mobile radios, siren and red lights		2,994.10
Miscellaneous		361.90
	Total	\$24,498.48
Service on line rent		\$ 1,534.15
Tower rental		4,175.00
		\$30,207.63



## OPERATIONS AND CONSTRUCTION

The Operations and Construction Division, with offices and shops at 3019 Apple and 3001 "Y" Streets in Lincoln, has a staff of 28 full-time employees and 15 temporary employees year-round. During the summer months 45 to 50 additional temporary employees are hired to meet peak work loads. In 1975, Operations and Construction provided numerous services for area visitors and to other divisions of the Commission.

(1) Personnel do routine maintenance and improvements to seven Salt Valley and 11 District V areas. Routine maintenance includes installation and removal of boat docks, boating buoys, and swimming buoys, regular pick up of garbage and litter, regular cleaning and repair of latrines, repair and testing of wells, mowing of designated areas, and installation and repair of regulatory signs.

(2) The division does all types of carpentry, electrical, concrete, heavy equipment work and utility projects that are impractical to contract to outside bidders. Examples are installation of septic tanks, lines and fields; installation of well pumps, pressure tanks and distribution lines; framing and finishing interior offices and bathrooms in maintenance buildings; remodeling residences; repair of roofs; complete construction of latrine buildings; cabinet-making; pouring of concrete for boat ramps, loading docks, driveways, sidewalks and wingwalls. Heavy equipment is used to build roads, parking lots, dams, terraces, dredge lakes, remove trees and brush, and general cleanup of areas.

(3) Implementation of a statewide road maintenance and improvement program was started with the purchase of one new and three used motor graders in May. The first areas to receive work were the Southwest and Southeast areas in June followed by the Platte Valley areas between Grand Island and North Platte in August. Plans are ready to start work on the Northwest areas as soon as personnel and support equipment are available.

(4) Division personnel, trained in Law Enforcement, assisted Conservation Officers during holidays and high-use weekends. These people also assist with Civil Defense emergencies and were called upon to help when several drownings occurred in the District V area.

(5) Personnel assisted in planting and the care of several nurseries and devoted many hours in the spring and fall to transplanting several hundred trees for future day use and camping area plantings.

(6) Operation of a service station to dispense gas, diesel fuel, and oil for agency vehicles is another service. In 1975, 59,217 gallons of gas and 13,366 gallons of diesel fuel were supplied.

Improvements by area include:

BLUESTEM RECREATION AREA: Installation of new playground equipment, 27 waist-high fireplaces and 12 new picnic tables. In addition, 75 trees were transplanted to the area.



BRANCHED OAK RECREATION AREA: A new maintenance shop/office building was built, as were roads and a parking area. A new well and entrance road are to be completed. Concrete footings and floor were poured for the old supply depot building, which was moved from the fairgrounds. This building has helped greatly to meet the needs for storage of supplies. New playground equipment was set up. Area personnel planted 4,000 trees in the nursery, plus 300 bare root trees, and transplanted 275 trees.

CONESTOGA RECREATION AREA: Installation of a new entrance sign, five new picnic tables and 15 trees were transplanted to the area.

PAWNEE RECREATION AREA; Sand was hauled in to cover both beaches. Installed playground equipment, five waist-high fireplaces, 30 new picnic tables, six gun stands in the blue-rock area, and new swimming beach buoys. 600 Ponderosa pines were planted in a shelterbelt, and 100 trees were transplanted.

STAGECOACH RECREATION AREA: New playground equipment and five waist-high fireplaces were installed to the area.

WAGON TRAIN RECREATION AREA: New Playground equipment and five waist-high fireplaces were installed and 74 trees were transplanted.

ALEXANDRIA RECREATION AREA: New playground equipment, 13 picnic tables, and 8 waist-high fireplaces were installed; 51 trees were transplanted, and the camping area was enlarged.

MEMPHIS RECREATION AREA: A new double earth pit latrine was installed and one well was replaced. An additional camping area was cleared.

ROCKFORD RECREATION AREA: New playground equipment and two double latrine buildings were installed, and 300 pine trees were planted for the nursery. The parking lot and roads were regraded to correct a drainage problem.

VERDON RECREATION AREA: The west shoreline of the lake was rip-rapped and stabilized to prevent further erosion.

FREMONT RECREATION AREA: 1,000 feet of water supply line was installed for the new residence, and installation of septic tank and field was completed.

TWO RIVERS RECREATION AREA: 31,000 cubic yards of sand were dredged from carp and bullhead lakes to maintain an average 5-foot depth. The swimming dock was repaired by breaking out and replacing 5 cubic yards of concrete. A new septic field was constructed at the superintendent's residence.

JOHNSON LAKE RECREATION AREA: Contact was made with a private contractor for asphalt surfacing at the trailer dump station, and inspected and provided liaison services for the project.

LOUISVILLE RECREATION AREA: A concrete pad was paved for installation of a used trailer house to be used as superintendent's residence. The trailer was completely renovated including walls, lighting, installation of kitchen and bath, heating, windows, utilities, and ceilings.



SCHRAMM PARK RECREATION AREA: The road through the day-use area built and surfaced with crushed rock. Landscaping was done around the picnic shelters, and the meditation shelter was built overlooking the river.

VICTORIA SPRINGS RECREATION AREA: Completely replaced the septic tank, lines, lateral and field at the superintendent's residence.

LEWIS AND CLARK RECREATION AREA: Boat ramps were constructed at Miller Creek and Weigand areas.

PONCA STATE PARK: Office and restroom facilities were built in the new shop maintenance building. This included all plumbing, electrical and heating. Formed and placed 55 cubic yards of concrete to construct the loading dock and to repair swimming pool. Removed and repaired the filter system and installed 4-inch drain lines for swimming pool.

CHADRON STATE PARK: Contracted the installation of septic tank, lines, and field at the superintendent's residence.

NORFOLK DISTRICT OFFICE: Installed 900 feet of 1 1/2" water line, valves, curb boxes and hydrants to improve yard area water supply.

BASSETT DISTRICT OFFICE: The garage was remodeled into finished office areas.

GROVE LAKE TROUT REARING STATION: Completed construction of office, lab and restroom facilities inside the new feed storage building. An eight-foot culvert was installed and the road across Verdigre Creek was rebuilt. Approximately 6,000 cubic yards of material were removed for the construction of silt-settling basins.

NORTH PLATTE FISH HATCHERY: Constructed new septic systems for the superintendent's residence and the hatchhouse, installed three, 12-inch drain lines from the ponds to the catch basins.

ROCK CREEK FISH HATCHERY: Hauled 1,000 cubic yards of filter rock from Ogallala to the hatchery for pond improvement; installed a domestic water supply to three residences; installed 12-inch and 6-inch water supply lines from the spring pond to the hatchhouse, and installed and connected the incubators.

SMARTWEED MARSH SPECIAL USE AREA: Constructed ditching to improve the water supply for wildlife and built adjacent parking area.

JEFFREY CANYON SPECIAL USE AREA: A boat ramp, road, and parking area were constructed to improve boating and camping. The parking area was surfaced with gravel.

COZAD SPECIAL USE AREA: Constructed 700 feet of road and a parking area to accommodate 25 cars. Both were surfaced with gravel.

GROVE LAKE SPECIAL USE AREA: Built 1,800 feet of road with turn-around and installed 160 feet of culvert. Surfacing was done with 2-inch crushed rock.

PAWNEE PRAIRIE SPECIAL USE AREA: Three parking areas were built and surfaced with crushed rock.

KILLDEER SPECIAL USE AREA: A 90-foot-long fishing pier, complete with guard rails and approach ramp, was installed, and construction was started on a vault type latrine building. These facilities are designed for use by handicapped persons.

BLUE RIVER WAYSIDE AREA: Rebuilt the road and enlarged the back camping area.

LITTLE NEMAHA WAYSIDE AREA: Six new picnic tables were installed.

PIONEER WAYSIDE AREA: 75 trees were planted.

MORMON ISLAND WAYSIDE AREA: A chlorinator was installed on the effluent side of the sewage digester.

CARPENTER SHOP: The carpenters constructed 24 double latrine buildings for Parks and Resource Services divisions. A new display cabinet for the lobby of the Central Headquarters building was built and installed as well as storage shelving for the basement. Several other miscellaneous renovation projects were completed in the Central Headquarters complex offices as well. Six sign shelters were constructed and installed and counter and storage were built and installed in the Omaha I&E office.

FORT KEARNY STATE HISTORICAL PARK: Installed underground electrical supply, interior wiring, and outside information sign at the powder magazine.

MISCELLANEOUS: Routine maintenance was conducted at Riverview Recreation Area and at Blue Valley, Brownville, and Crosstails wayside areas.



## PARKS

The Division of State Parks is charged by state law with the administration and management of the Nebraska State Parks System. State park areas are administered in the following statutory classifications:

STATE PARKS are resource based recreational areas of substantial size, having scenic, scientific and historical values and complete development potentials. Nebraska at present has five such areas in operation: Chadron, Fort Robinson, Indian Cave, Ponca and Niobrara. One offers a restaurant and hotel rooms, two have group camps, three having swimming pools, and four offer modern house-keeping cabins. All offer overnight camping facilities.

STATE RECREATION AREAS possess primarily day-use potentials with overnight camping also an important consideration. Such areas are also resource based and are located in accordance with sound park management principles.

STATE HISTORICAL PARKS are sites which are of notable historical significance to the State of Nebraska and are of sufficient size to permit the interpretive potential of the site to be fully developed. Limited day-use facilities are not allowed to detract or interfere with the primary purpose of the area.

STATE WAYSIDE AREAS are located along main traveled highways at points of scenic and historical interest where possible. These areas are developed specifically to afford the traveler a safe place to stop, rest, and picnic, with overnight camping of a limited nature.

<u>Areas</u>	<u>Water or Marsh Acres</u>	<u>Land Acres</u>	<u>Total Acreage</u>
5 State Parks	4	17,117	17,121
54 State Recreation Areas	61,558	32,136	93,694
25 State Wayside Areas	158	553	711
8 State Historical Parks		1,725	1,725

## Personnel

In addition to 105 permanent employees, 150 to 200 seasonal workers are necessary to provide maintenance and supervision for the 92 public use areas within the state parks system.

Of the 105 employees, 10 staff members are headquartered at the central office in Lincoln, 3 are on the sign shop crew, 19 are assigned to the 5 state parks, 11 are associated with the 8 state historical parks, and the remaining 62 employees comprise the work force dedicated to the care of the 54 state recreation areas and 25 state wayside areas.

Only 31 of the 92 public use areas are staffed with permanent onsite personnel. Those staffed areas include the 5 state parks, 6 of the state historical parks, 18 state recreation areas, and 2 state wayside areas. A total of 67 permanent people are assigned to the operation of the 31 manned areas.



The remaining 25 permanent field positions make up 7 maintenance crews. These crews are distributed across the state and are responsible for all phases of park operations on the 61 unmanned public use areas.

### Park Planning

The beginning of any park development project starts on the drafting boards of the park planners. The planning process begins with a particular park need, then evolves into ideas to solve that need. At that point, preliminary site plans are prepared, the drawings are critiqued by administrative and field personnel, adjustments to the site plans are made, then a final plan is drawn. A descriptive narrative setting forth the purpose and goals for each area is written along with construction cost estimates for installation of facilities. This process is followed whether the project is a completed master plan for a major state park or a redevelopment proposal on a small wayside area.

Complete development programs for three state recreation areas--Lake Minatare, Bridgeport, and Crystal Lake were completed by the Parks staff in 1975. In addition, private consultants completed area master plans for Pawnee State Recreation Area and Indian Cave State Park.

Relocation studies continued on Niobrara State Park, and a site planning orientated development program was added to the existing and continuing studies being prepared for Fort Robinson State Park. A revised campground plan was prepared for Chadron State Park, and a private consultant was engaged to prepare an area master plan for Branched Oak State Recreation Area.

Park planning is closely tied to capital budgeting through estimating facility cost for new developments. Each major capital construction item requires a program statement justifying the proposed expenditure. Material presented in the program statement is extracted from descriptive narratives prepared during the park planning process.

### Park Landscape Services

Park Landscape Services is a program designed to create, manage, and preserve recreation woodlands and landscape plantings. This program encompasses all lands assigned to the Division of State Parks.

Program funds were requested to provide increased personnel, equipment, and material for planting and management of the plant resources on park areas.

During the year planting was accomplished on Chadron, Ponca, Johnson Lake, Two Rivers, Schramm, Fremont Lakes, Fort Atkinson, Fort Kearny, Mormon Island, Arbor Lodge, Salt Valley areas, plus others. Pruning and plant care demonstrations were held at several locations. Workers sponsored by the C.E.T.A. program provided considerable landscape development work, which would have been impossible with normal staff capability.

A complete inventory of trees and shrubs was made for the Arbor Lodge Arboretum. Over 200 species or varieties of trees and shrubs were identified and placed in the new arboretum catalog. Labeling is in progress.



## Sign Shop

During 1975 the sign shop moved into its new quarters at 3019 Apple Street, and it was a busy year. Personnel processed 313 different request totaling 5,391 individual signs for the various divisions of the Commission.

It is imperative that the signs be a high quality design and workmanship since the product, when installed, must be aesthetically pleasing to blend with the natural environments of the public use areas. Basically six types of signs are needed. They are silk screened, routed, special hand lettered, engraved, decals and magnetic.

Major projects completed during 1975 included the re-signing with new routed park signs of Chadron State Park, Arbor Lodge State Historical Park, Louisville State Recreation Area, and Lewis and Clark Lake. Routed entrance signs were completed for Plattsmouth Waterfowl Management Area; Rock Creek, North Platte and Grove Lake fish hatcheries, and I & E's Omaha office. 887 goose bands and plant markers were also engraved.

## Capital Improvements

Each year additional capital improvements are needed in park areas where public use demands are greatest, where replacement of obsolete facilities are most urgent, and where critical maintenance support facilities are required to carry out operational aspects of a particular area.

The Legislature appropriated \$575,500 from general tax revenues for improvement on state park areas during the fiscal year 1974-75. This capital construction money was allocated as follows: State Parks, \$128,000; state historical parks, \$151,000; and state recreation areas, \$296,000.

Major state park improvements included construction of single and group shelters, Adirondack shelters, and latrine buildings. Capital dollars were also spent on a cave renovation project at Indian Cave State Park, reforestation and a cabin renovation project at Chadron, and a utility plan for Fort Robinson. A master plan for recreation development for Indian Cave was accomplished with capital funds.

Important improvements at state historical park areas were the installation of heating and air conditioning at Arbor Lodge, the erection of powder magazine at Fort Kearny, a lawn irrigation system at Buffalo Bill Ranch, monies for the planning and reconstruction of west barracks wall at Fort Atkinson, and the development of visitor center plans for Ash Hollow.

State recreation areas received the most capital funding. New facilities constructed with those dollars include a maintenance building for Branched Oak; an irrigation well for Walgren Lake; modern campground facilities at Lake Ogallala; a new modern latrine facility, campground information booths, and additional area lights at Fremont Lakes. New park superintendent residences were constructed at Lake McConaughy and Fremont. Many areas were provided with additional picnic tables, firegrates, latrines, boat docks, and other basic recreation facilities.

No new recreation road projects were undertaken during 1975, since the funds available were used for resurfacing existing roads at Burchard Lake and Medicine Creek. However, additional interior roads were surfaced at both areas, and camping spurs were constructed at Medicine Creek.

#### Fiscal Breakdown

Fund appropriations and expenditures for the fiscal year 1974-75 allotted the Parks Division to operate and maintain the 92 public use areas included:

Fiscal Year 1974-75 July 1, 1974 through June 30, 1975)	
<u>Budget Authority</u>	
General Fund Appropriation	\$2,266,892.96
Cash Fund Appropriation	542,518.00
Federal Funds	120,000.00
Total	\$2,929,410.96
Expenditures	
Park Administration, Enforcement and Operation	
Personnel Services	\$1,138,143.92
Employee Benefits	101,942.04
Operating and Repairs	335,298.95
Supplies	169,234.65
Travel	49,181.07
Capital Outlay (Equipment)	287,189.27
Total	\$2,080,989.90
Operation and Maintenance	
Personnel Services	\$ 380,996.15
Employee Benefits	31,085.74
Operating and Repairs	78,211.30
Supplies	40,728.74
Travel	7,026.02
Capital Outlay (Equipment)	65,495.75
Total	\$ 603,543.70
Encumbrances	\$ 244,877.36
Total Disbursements	\$2,929,410.96

#### Visitations

It can safely be estimated that over 7 1/2 million people visited the state park areas during 1975. Of the state's 92 areas, the 31 most heavily used sites alone accounted for close to 7 million visitors.

Day-use activities also increased throughout the year system. Campgrounds, where registration is required, operated at near capacity levels during most summer weekends and showed a slight increase in use over the previous year. Camping activity was up noticeably on weekdays.



State parks cabin usage declined slightly from previous year, which can be attributed to shortening the cabin operating season by three weeks.

It is evident that Nebraskans are vacationing closer to home, using their state park areas. The state's parks are playing a more important role in outdoor recreation each year.

#### 1975 ESTIMATED PARK VISITOR COUNT

<u>Area</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>
*Arbor Lodge SHP	170,800	178,500	159,000
*Ash Hollow SHP	54,415	39,307	58,000
Box Butte SRA	41,576	43,530	51,218
*Buffalo Bill SHP	63,849	45,399	89,238
*Chadron SP	160,462	224,725	269,098
Dead Timber SRA	---	---	56,000
Enders SRA	17,128	21,467	25,337
*Fort Atkinson SHP	---	50,820	43,550
Fort Hartsuff SHP	9,400	9,703	9,225
*Fort Kearny SHP	95,124	87,800	91,444
Fort Robinson SP	---	---	160,000
Fremont SRA	532,493	668,864	647,726
Indian Cave SP	---	---	127,000
*Kearney County SRA	117,713	137,737	139,646
Lake McConaughy SRA	---	---	460,000
Lake Minatare SRA	---	---	129,500
Lewis & Clark SRA	---	---	472,000
*Louisville SRA	67,896	89,727	102,000
Medicine Creek SRA	87,803	54,286	55,681
Merritt SRA	---	---	92,000
*Mormon Island SWA	383,720	373,533	358,158
*Niobrara SP	83,086	118,968	108,257
*Ponca SP	245,097	253,590	183,267
Red Willow SRA	121,352	111,077	109,974
*Salt Valley (7 SRA'S)	1,940,454	2,133,522	2,079,934
Schramm SRA	---	---	36,585
Sherman SRA	---	---	190,000
Swanson SRA	140,639	126,336	138,271
*Two Rivers SRA	223,817	250,002	223,636
*Victoria Springs SRA	---	---	36,585
*Windmill SWA	<u>115,059</u>	<u>220,385</u>	<u>151,379</u>
TOTAL	4,671,883	5,239,278	6,813,709

\*Annual visitor estimates based upon car counts, using 3.5 people per car, or actual counts of park visitors.

--Annual visitor counts not available.

Superintendents estimate visitor counts for other areas, although some area figures are based on a partial year car count.

# Income

Although no entrance fees are required at any state park areas, fees are charged for certain park activities at some areas, and are returned to that park's operations and maintenance funds.

## 1975 STATE PARK AND RECREATION AREA INCOME TOTALS

<u>Area</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>
Arbor Lodge State Historical Park	\$ 15,729.99	\$ 15,800.91
Ash Hollow State Historical Park	151.87	475.63
Buffalo Bill State Historical Park	2,135.08	3,442.10
Chadron State Park	38,878.96	49,542.90
Fort Kearny State Historical Park	1,364.76	1,938.16
*Fort Robinson State Park	135,700.22	99,736.83
Fremont State Recreation Area	19,410.47	21,693.55
Johnson Lake State Recreation Area	18,897.14	20,502.02
Kearney County State Recreation Area	5,170.17	5,744.30
Louisville State Recreation Area	10,505.36	12,020.41
Mormon Island State Wayside Area	12,930.77	17,356.35
Niobrara State Park	27,267.22	23,401.33
Ponca State Park	51,219.91	58,446.13
*Two Rivers State Recreation Area	22,335.44	22,477.25
Victoria Springs State Recreation Area	2,052.27	3,649.00
Windmill State Wayside Area	<u>9,789.45</u>	<u>14,185.25</u>
 TOTAL	 \$373,539.08	 \$370,422.12

\*Sale of trout tags is not included in this figure, since money derived from this source is returned to the Game Cash Fund and not the Park Cash Fund.



# 1975 GROUP CAMPING VISITOR COUNT

<u>Area</u>	<u>Number of Campers</u>	<u>Group Camp Registrations</u>	<u>Number of Group Campers</u>	<u>Total Group Camp Days</u>
Chadron SP	225	4	238	799
Niobrara SP	535	22	449	1,212
TOTALS	790	26	687	2,011

# REGISTERED CABIN GUEST COUNTS

<u>Area</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>
Chadron	2,657	3,233	2,625
*Fort Robinson SP	3,166	3,232	3,205
Niobrara SP	1,953	2,039	1,351
Ponca SP	2,547	2,865	2,216
Victoria Springs SRA	279	232	212
	10,602	11,601	9,609

\*Fort Robinson--1,765 room guests for 1973  
 (in addition)--2,596 room guests for 1974  
 --2,480 room guests for 1975

# TRAIL RIDE INCOME

<u>Area</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>
Chadron State Park	\$ 3,989.93	\$ 4,948.48	\$ 5,445.45
Fort Robinson State Park	3,485.32	4,467.74	5,063.26
Niobrara State Park	1,812.91	2,132.97	1,956.77
Ponca State Park	10,122.42	11,377.52	12,071.77
TOTAL	\$19,410.58	\$22,926.71	\$24,537.25

# SWIMMING POOL INCOME

<u>Area</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>
Chadron State Park	\$ 3,600.73	\$ 4,622.94	\$ 4,744.28
Niobrara State Park	2,448.41	1,814.13	1,751.37
Ponca State Park	5,190.23	5,116.27	7,065.47
Two Rivers State Recreation Area	5,390.50	3,727.23	2,645.56
TOTAL	\$16,629.87	\$15,280.57	\$16,206.68

# TROUT TAG INCOME

<u>Area</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>
Fort Robinson State Park	\$ 696.00	\$ 756.00
Two Rivers State Recreation Area	103,170.00	98,572.00
TOTAL	<u>\$103,866.00</u>	<u>\$99,328.00</u>

## 1975 GENERAL CAMPING--VISITOR COUNT

<u>Area</u>	<u>1974 Number of Campers</u>	<u>1975 Units Registered</u>	<u>1975 Number of Campers</u>
Ash Hollow SHP	745	502	1,516
Chadron SP	12,464	3,676	13,266
Fort Robinson SP	7,895	2,179	7,208
Fremont SRA	38,637	8,970	38,766
Johnson Lake SRA	36,993	7,018	40,251
Louisville SRA	25,220	5,520	24,398
Kearney County SRA	13,612	3,016	14,275
Mormon Island SWA	16,585	4,915	16,115
Niobrara SP	2,644	1,229	2,953
Ponca SP	12,981	2,964	12,686
Two Rivers SRA	23,714	5,630	20,113
Victoria Springs SRA	1,287	385	1,679
Windmill SWA	<u>11,424</u>	<u>3,782</u>	<u>13,177</u>
*TOTALS	204,201	49,786	206,403

\*A camping unit averages about 4 people per camping party. If the average duration of a visit by a camper is 3 days, then it can be calculated that the above campgrounds account for 625,209 general camping days.

## \*STATE PARK AND RECREATION AREA CAMP

	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>
Chadron State Park	\$ 5,169.14	\$ 7,589.01
Fremont State Recreation Area	19,410.47	21,793.65
Fort Robinson State Park	5,156.40	4,610.50
Johnson Lake State Recreation Area	18,889.45	20,512.02
Kearney County State Recreation Area	5,170.17	5,735.30
Louisville State Recreation Area	10,505.36	12,020.41
Mormon Island State Wayside Area	13,185.70	17,326.78
Niobrara State Park	2,271.21	2,120.50
Ponca State Park	14,824.02	18,633.23
Two Rivers State Recreation Area	17,613.42	18,477.88
Victoria Springs State Recreation Area	547.31	977.97
Windmill State Wayside Area	<u>9,789.45</u>	<u>14,084.10</u>
TOTAL	\$122,532.10	\$143,881.35

\*Income also includes group camp income.



## PERSONNEL

Functions of the Personnel Division include administration of payroll, workmen's compensation, retirement, insurance, accident reports, performance evaluations, personnel records and preparation of personal services portion of the agency's operation budget.

A total of 50 vacancy announcements was sent to Commission personnel during 1975. Numerous letters on employment possibilities and career information were received and answered. Personnel also interviewed and tested many applicants throughout the year. replies were given for personnel surveys regarding salaries, benefits, personnel turnover, positions, sex of employees and location of employees.

Job audits and classification reviews by the State Department of Personnel in 1975 resulted in position reclassification or pay grade change for six positions.

Personnel conferred with the Attorney General's office on several Workmen's Compensation cases and vehicle accidents.

PAYROLLS: Permanent--Total gross wages - \$3,848,827.00  
Average number of employees per month - 389  
Number new employees - 91 (1 PEP) (54 CETA)  
Number terminated employees - 48

Temporary--Total gross wages - \$813,805.00  
Average number employees per payroll - 193  
Largest payroll - 506  
Smallest payroll - 56

PERSONAL INJURY ACCIDENTS: Total state cost (State Claims Board) - \$3,667.72

Permanent employee accidents - 43

Temporary employee accidents - 23

Nature of Employee Injuries: Back - 13 Heart Attack - 1  
Poison Ivy - 5 Leg - 2  
Ankle - 3 Head - 4  
Neck - 2 Foot - 2  
Knee - 5 Eye - 5  
Arm - 6 Finger - 14  
Ear - 1 Hand - 1  
Ribs - 2

Workmen's Compensation Claims: 2 claims - \$6,380.42

VEHICLE ACCIDENTS - 34

NON-VEHICLE ACCIDENTS - 3

# PILOT

## AERO COMMANDER DIRECT OPERATING COST BREAKDOWN

	1975	1974	1973
Aircraft repair	\$ 3,416.48	\$ 6,787.34	\$16,337.89
Gasoline	6,872.28	8,339.99	6,357.08
Oil	204.24	199.53	213.74
Radio repair	1,204.70		
TOTAL	\$ 11,697.70	\$15,386.86	\$22,908.71

Total Hours Flown\* - 337.5

\*Total aircraft engine operating time will be approximately 10 percent more than noted, since aircraft recording hour meter is run by air pressure over the wing and is operating only when aircraft has flight speed. Total flight time is air to ground time only, using 180 m.p.h. average speed.

## INDIRECT OPERATING COST

	1975	1974	1973
Insurance	\$ 1,444.00	\$ 1,325.00	\$ 1,015.00
\$3,000,000 single limit bodily injury and property damage insurance each occurrence			
Hull All Risk Basis \$80,000 insured value.			
Storages Landing Fees	2,882.53	2,425.19	1,759.13
Federal Tax	135.00	135.00	135.00
Charts and Publications	198.75	134.00	174.03
Utilities	604.94		
New Equipment:			
Radar Installation	7,000.00		
Miscellaneous Supplies	115.95	92.75	115.47
TOTAL	\$ 12,081.17		

Direct Operating Cost Per Hour - \$34.66

Total Indirect Cost Per Hour - \$35.40

Combined Direct and Indirect Cost Per hour:	1975 \$70.06	1974 \$60.62	1973 \$75.14
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Average Cost Per Hour Over a Four-Year Period - \$62.67

## OPERATING COST BREAKDOWN (Per mile and seat mile)

	1975	1974	1973
Per Mile	.40	.34	.43
Per Seat Mile	.072	.057	.076
Seat Load Factor	5.5	5.9	5.6



## Depreciation

The aircraft was depreciated out in 1973 and has a residual value of \$77,191.59, a realistic resale figure since the craft is in excellent condition. The spare engine increases this amount by about \$6,000 to \$7,000.

## Charges

Charges to other agencies are \$78 per hour by all aircraft involved in the Aircraft Scheduling Pool in 1975. This income was \$6,520.80. Charges to divisions within the Game and Parks Commission for 1976 will be based on the direct operating cost for 1975 - \$34.66 per hour.

## HOURS OF FLYING BREAKDOWN

Total Hours Flown            - 337.5  
Hours of Night Flying        - 17.9  
Hours of Instrument Flying - 19.8

## BREAKDOWN OF AIRCRAFT USED BY DIVISIONS

	1975	1974
Administration*	120.2	148.2
Department of Aeronautics Aircraft Pool	83.6	107.3
Operations	17.4	4.6
Fiscal	12.3	7.4
Fisheries	26.1	44.3
Information and Education	.5	12.7
Law Enforcement, Survey and Patrol	6.3	2.1
Parks	26.9	43.9
Pilot Proficiency	2.6	1.1
Planning and Programming	3.9	28.2
Wildlife	20.0	25.2
Resource Services		2.9
Aircraft maintenance	7.0	
Federal Aid	2.2	

\*Flight charged to Administration includes all flights by the director, assistant director, commissioners, and combined department personnel assisting the director or assistant director.

## PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING DIVISION

Responsibilities include grant administration, maintenance of the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, resource monitoring, and capital programming.

### Comprehensive Planning

Activities during 1975 primarily involved coordination. Under the "continuing eligibility" option, the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation reviewed and approved the on-going state planning process as represented by the following examples:

- (1) Review, comment and provide input to Natural Resource District plans. Legislation required one and six-year plans from each NRD by August 1, 1975. Most have completed these plans.
- (2) Review, comment and provide input to county comprehensive plans. The State Office of Planning and Programming contracted with four counties to complete plans. Comprehensive Planning Advisory team (CPAT) was formed to provide a source of input and review comments on these plans.
- (3) Bicentennial Trails project directed efforts to inventorying Nebraska trails and serving as a state clearinghouse for monitoring and reporting new trail development during the Bicentennial year.
- (4) Nebraska Travel Industry Development Plan is an inter-agency planning effort headed by the Department of Economic Development to coordinate development of Nebraska's tourism/recreation potentials. Membership on advisory committee is same as that for the SCORP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

Considerable staff time was devoted to the development of a wildlife habitat proposal as a follow-up to the February 1975 Wildlife Habitat Conference.

Other miscellaneous committee assignments and planning efforts involved:

- (1) Platte Basin Level B Study--Input to Task Force 10 on Outdoor Recreation, and review of other task force documents.
- (2) National Scenic and Recreation Trails Studies.
- (3) Rivers Studies--Field investigations on Niobrara and Republican rivers to determine current levels of use.
- (4) Lincoln Bicycle Plan--Mayor's Committee
- (5) Loup Power Canal trail investigations
- (6) NASIS--Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey. (Represented on Advisory Committee)
- (7) MAPA--Trails Task Force, Metropolitan Area Planning Agency
- (8) NCCY--Nebraska Council on Children and Youth



## Resource Monitoring

Basic responsibility of the unit is interaction in the planning efforts of other governmental entities so that their action programs will remain or become consistent with the goals and objects of the Game and Parks Commission.

Opportunities for this input are available through the routine A-95 process and Department of Roads, Level of Study and Environmental Reports and specific planning efforts such as power plant siting studies, power station plans and water project planning.

## Grant-In-Aid Programs

### Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 provides 50% federal grants-in-aid to the various states and their political subdivisions for comprehensive planning acquisition, and development of outdoor recreation areas. State legislation provides that 40% annual apportionment be allocated for state projects and 60% for political subdivision projects.

Planning and Programming is responsible for administering the program. Activities include: (1) review and processing of all required program documents (2) fiscal and project control, and (3) liaison with political subdivisions and other agencies.

### Regular Apportionments

Fiscal Year	State Projects	Political Subdivision Projects	Total
1965	77,748.00	51,832.00	129,580.00
1966	635,855.57	423,903.72	1,059,759.29
1967	427,642.04	285,094.69	712,736.73
1968	465,265.13	310,176.75	775,441.88
1969	340,944.00	227,296.00	568,240.00
1970	469,561.20	313,040.80	782,602.00
1971	889,920.00	593,280.00	1,483,200.00
1972	1,151,070.00	1,726,605.00	2,877,675.00
1973	818,827.20	1,228,240.80	2,057,068.00
1974	256,581.60	384,872.40	441,454.00
1975	810,720.00	1,216,080.00	2,026,800.00
1976	395,992.80	593,989.20	989,982.00
	<u>\$1,740,127.54</u>	<u>\$7,354,411.36</u>	<u>14,094,538.90</u>

### Special Apportionments From Contingency Fund

FY 1966	Omaha	2 projects	210,212.64
FY 1970	Lincoln	1 project	150,000.00
FY 1975	Blair	1 project	131,000.00

## Federal Aid in Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 and the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950 are companion programs which provide financial assistance to the states and territories for restoration activities. Such programs are administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program comes from all 11% federal excise tax on arms and ammunitions, whereas the Sport Fish Restoration Program is supported by a 10% tax on fishing rods, creels, reels, baits and lures.

To participate in these programs, the state must assent to the provisions of the acts. Work proposed is performed at state expense, after which 75% of the state's costs are reimbursed from the appropriate federal aid funds.

During 1975, the Wildlife Restoration Program made \$934,298.36 available to Nebraska for work pertaining to wildlife restoration. Of this figure, \$45,500 was authorized for expenditure on hunter safety training. The Sport Fish Restoration Program earmarked \$231,041.37 for sport fish restoration.

Activities funded under these two programs include: (1) surveys or inventories--studies designed to collect data on the status of fish, wildlife, their environments, or their users to aid the administration in management decisions; (2) research--studies designed to collect factual information needed for the effective conservation and management of fish and wildlife or to enhance the recreation use of these resources; (3) land acquisition--lands purchased were acquired for public use and wildlife production; (4) development--activities designed to create, improve, or perpetuate habitat conditions or to facilitate public use; (5) maintenance--activities pertaining to the upkeep of capital improvements acquired or constructed under these programs; and, (6) technical assistance--assistance designed to improve or protect the environment for wildlife was provided to individuals and groups exercising management over land and water resources.

## Commercial Fisheries

During 1975, three projects were active under this program. One project concerned the collection of statistical information on the various commercial fisheries activities in the state. The second was designed to determine the feasibility of using irrigation canal laterals for the cage culture of channel catfish. The third pertained to the collection of information on the commercial fishery resources of the Missouri River. Nebraska's 1975 apportionment was \$19,000.

## Boat Safety

In 1971, the Federal Boat Safety Act was passed. This program which is administered by the U.S. Coast Guard, is designed to assist the states financially in the development of comprehensive boat safety programs. During 1975, this program made \$49,350 available for activities and expenditures related to our boat safety education program and to the enforcement of boating laws and regulations.



## REALTY

The Realty Section pursued its normal activities including land acquisition, reconnaissance, leasing, land and water appraisal review, building management, legal liaison, Federal Register review, and miscellaneous assignments.

### Headquarters Complex

Harold Sheldon was hired as the utilities and maintenance supervisor. Sheldon is an accomplished utilities and maintenance man with an extensive knowledge of electricity, plumbing, and carpentry. Bills for electrical work, plumbing, air conditioning, and other miscellaneous repairs have been greatly reduced under his stewardship. Several teenagers have been trained in custodial work through the Commission's participation in the Juvenile Educational Training (JET) program.

### Appraisal Review

Appraisals were reviewed for 14 political subdivisions under the Land and Water Conservation fund program. Twelve of them were returned for additional information and/or correction.

### Land Acquisition and Leases

Three sites, totaling 363 acres, were purchased from Natural Resource Districts, at the original cost to the NRD, with funds from the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson federal programs.

Crystal Lake, a 40-acre tract in Dakota County, was traded to the Nebraska Department of Roads for road expansion in return for eight tracts along I-80 totaling 727.19 acres.

A trade arranged at Pibel Lake SRA added five acres and gave the Commission control of the entire shoreline. Bowman Lake SRA was improved by trading a strip of land, which had been an old canal, for a parcel adjacent to the River. A maintenance shop was leased in Bloomfield for the Parks crew, and a lease was negotiated with the Santee Sioux Tribal Council for Santee SRA at Lewis and Clark Lake.

### Reconnaissance

Twelve recons were accomplished on tracts offered either for sale or as a gift.

### Miscellaneous

The maintenance yard at the State Fairgrounds was lost to road expansion on the Fairgrounds. By 1977, the entire complex will be taken over by the Fair Board, necessitating replacement of 1 1/2 acres of yard space plus storage buildings.

An attorney and a maintenance man were hired under the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) program. The attorney took another position after two months.

The Federal Register is reviewed daily and pertinent articles are called to the attention of the specialist concerned. Nebraska's Department of Administrative Services (DAS) initiated an inventory of all real property owned by the Commission, but the project was shelved because of a lack of funds.

## RESOURCE SERVICES

1975 was a diverse year for Resource Services. Work ranged from wildlife habitat assistance to landowners and cooperating agencies to picking up dead waterfowl during the fowl cholera outbreak on and near the Sacramento State Game Management Area.

A major effort in all districts involved technical assistance to private individuals, Soil Conservation Service, ASCS, Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resource District, and wildlife clubs to enhance wildlife habitat.

### District I

District I began selective, controlled burns in an effort to control regeneration of "dog hair" stands of ponderosa pine on state wildlife lands.

Increased lumbering of private land in the Pine Ridge prompted initiation of studies to evaluate the affect logging will have on wildlife populations, primarily turkey.

### District II

Lease agreements with local farmers and ranchers were used to continue improvement of wildlife habitat on wildlife lands. Other activities included: fencing to exclude cattle, fence maintenance, and maintaining and remodeling the district office.

### District III

District III worked as a liaison with Natural Resources District thus aiding to provide 2,609 acres of grass/legume mixture to provide habitat and curtail soil erosion. Other activities included tree and shrub planting, planting wildlife food and cover plots, noxious weed control and construction and/or maintenance of public facilities and equipment.

### District IV

An outbreak of fowl cholera on and near Sacramento Game Farm resulted in the loss of some migrating ducks and geese, plus 38 from the captive flock at Sacramento. As a result only 75 wood ducks were available for the F.F.A. release project. The cholera outbreak required a tremendous effort from the Resource Services, Terrestrial, Law Enforcement, and I & E divisions.

District IV work also included mobile crew work on projects from one end of the state to the other. Major activities included: fencing, working the cholera outbreak, seining Wagon Train Lake, and delivering 60,000 pounds of carp from Sutherland Reservoir to put-and-take carp ponds in the Lincoln and Omaha area.



## District V

Work centered around wildlife habitat improvement on state-owned lands. Some 10,500 trees and shrubs were planted on District V wildlife lands, providing additional habitat diversification.

Level ditching at Smartweed Marsh was completed, providing a half mile of permanent water for migratory waterfowl. Controlled burning was done on some areas for needed control of thorny locust trees and monoculture grass blocks.

### Plattsmouth Waterfowl Management Area

Goose numbers built steadily in November reaching a record population of 160,000 birds on November 18 and 19. Some 1,550 different hunters had the opportunity to use the controlled hunting area at Plattsmouth.

Hunters took 928 geese and 31 ducks. In addition 1,430 individuals toured the areas as did 1,020 people from school groups, Scout troops and ecology classes from all over eastern Nebraska.

Work was done to move away from repeated cropping patterns by using certain crop rotations and selected perennial grasses and legumes.

### Salt Valley

Canada goose production totaled 63 birds, including captive flock production, wildlife free flyer production, and incubator birds. Twenty-six banded birds were released at Branched Oak Lake, and another 18 were released at Twin Lakes.

Wood duck releases included 173 birds at Twin Lakes and 208 at Conestoga Lake. Five wood ducks were retained for breeding stock. Total wood duck production was 386 birds.

Tenant leases on Salt Valley wildlife lands increased rotational plans, relying heavily on legumes for organic matter nitrogen benefits as well as wildlife benefits.

### Acres for Wildlife

In 1975 enrollments were received from 1,011 cooperators with a total of 9,283 acres, an average of 9.18 acres per cooperator.

### Dog Trial and Training activities

The Resource Services Division administers all sporting dog training and field trial activities within the state. During 1975, 18 organized sporting dog clubs were on the state roster, the same number as 1974. A total of 56 trials was authorized, including 28 fund trials and 26 licensed trials. In addition, two National Trials were conducted in Nebraska.

## WILDLIFE DIVISION

The Wildlife Division develops management programs for the game and non-game wildlife including big game, upland game, waterfowl, furbearers, non-game animals, and endangered wildlife in the best interest of wildlife and the people.

During 1975, responsibilities of the division were broadened to include research activities. Research personnel are involved in a variety of studies aimed at gathering information to assist in the development of management programs. Research expertise is provided to other divisions such as Resource Services and Law Enforcement. Cooperative studies with the University of Nebraska and the U.S. Forest Service are in progress.

Management programs are designed to insure adequate safeguards to protect the resource while providing the maximum hunting, trapping, and recreational use reasonable.

Division personnel gather pre-season and post-season sex and age ratio data, collect harvest information, conduct banding studies, document habitat changes and estimate their impact on wildlife, gather baseline population information on non-game species, develop practices to protect threatened species, and study non-native species to determine their suitability for introduction. The division is responsible for monitoring private game farm operations, controlled shooting areas, falconry operations and permits for aerial coyote hunters. The bio-enforcement specialist provides liaison between Conservation Officers and biologists.

### Research Management

Several new projects were begun during 1975, plus continuation of several long-term studies.

Work was begun on developing a model to predict the response of ring-necked pheasant to changing land-use patterns. Data on pheasant populations, land use, and weather for the past 30 years was assembled and transferred to computer forms. It was analyzed to define relationships between pheasants, weather, and crops. Then, a preliminary model was developed, which hopefully will be useful as a tool in pheasant management.

A graduate student project to determine extent of deer damage on alfalfa and corn in the Sand Hills was started during the fall. This study is funded by Game and Parks and supervised through the University's Department of Poultry Science and Wildlife. Approximately two growing seasons will be followed in determining patterns of deer use and damage.

With habitat of critical concern, a short-term project was carried out during 1975 to determine if electric fencing could protect areas of high value habitat during the growing season at minimum cost. Experimental plots were established on U.S. Forest Service lands in the Sand Hills and Pine Ridge. Evaluation showed that portable electric fences do have potential for excluding cattle from valuable habitat, if cattle are acclimated to such a device, and if vandalism is not a problem.



The laboratory was kept busy on a variety of wildlife management areas. To aid law enforcement, a publication was completed which documented most of the cross-reaction patterns of wildlife with commonly used antiserum types. This will enable easier and more rapid identification of meat and blood samples submitted. Additionally, water sample analysis for fish production areas and state parks has become a routine laboratory function to maintain compliance with EPA regulations.

Final editing was completed on a manuscript dealing with prairie grouse research in the Sand Hills. This publication reports on intensive research studies on the life history and requirements of one of Nebraska's native game birds. Management guidelines are expected to serve as the basis for future management recommendations in the Sand Hills.

### Big Game

More permits were authorized for deer and turkey than the previous year and they were approximately the same for antelope. Hunting success was at a high level for all of these species.

Table 1. 1975 Big Game Harvest.

Species	Dates	Season	No. Permit	Harvest	Percent Success
Deer	Nov. 8-16	Rifle	27,697	16,134	58
	Sept. 20-Dec. 31	Archery*	9,103	1,508	17
Antelope	Sept. 27-Oct. 5	Rifle	1,789	1,463	82
	Aug. 20-Oct. 31	Archery*	157	7	4
Turkey	April 19-May 4	Spring(Shotgun)	1,875	490	26
	April 1-18	Spring(Archery)	289	21	7
	Oct. 25-Nov. 7	Fall (Shotgun)	2,011	1,138	57
	Oct. 11-24	Fall (Archery)	170	47	28

\*Exclusive of dates open for firearm season.

### Deer

Archery deer permit sales and harvest were the highest on record. Permits were up 307 over 1974. Success was 17% with 1,508 deer taken by 9,103 permittees. Deer were taken in 90 of the 93 counties, with the most taken in Antelope, Custer, and Sarpy counties. Whitetails made up 77% of the harvest, with mule deer providing the remainder.

Firearm permits issued were about 10% higher than in 1974, with a 17% increase in the number of either-sex permits. Persons who held firearm deer permits in 1974 were ineligible to apply during the first application period. Drawings were necessary in the Blue, Elkhorn, and Wahoo units. Following the second application period drawings were required in eight units--the Buffalo, Frenchman, Keya Paha, Missouri, Pine Ridge, Platte, Republican, and Upper Platte. Second choices from those rejected at this time filled all but the Sand Hills Unit and the Upper Platte Sub-Unit.

The 27,697 firearm permit-holders took 16,134 deer for 58% success. For the first time, whitetails exceeded mule deer in the firearm harvest, comprising 52% of the deer taken. Persons with bucks only permits were more successful in four

units and less successful in 10 of 15 units which could be directly compared. In most areas, the lower success was due primarily to drouth and consequent poor range conditions, which made hunting more difficult and altered deer behavior patterns.

Unit	Permits		Percentage of Either Sex		Harvest		Percent Success	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
Blue	1,752	2,104	20	30	818	1,099	47	52
Buffalo	1,348	1,463	20	10	855	731	63	50
Calamus East	511	751	0	10	292	337	57	45
Calamus West	899	1,000	30	30	622	626	69	63
Elkhorn	1,520	1,718	20	30	804	979	53	57
Frenchman	1,405	1,560	30	40	1,012	1,144	72	73
Keya Paha	1,835	1,846	100(1)	100(1)	1,316	1,232	72	67
Loup East	1,196	1,212	0	10	491	451	41	37
Loup West	1,203	1,402	40	30	888	740	74	53
Missouri	1,798	2,015	10	20	913	971	51	48
Pine Ridge	3,810	4,012	100	100	2,788	2,485	73	62
Plains	901	999	50	50	705	751	78	75
Platte	1,390	1,612	40	30	1,065	954	77	59
Republican	1,140	1,240	10	20	531	624	47	50
Sandhills	1,877	1,999	30	40	1,255	1,352	67	68
Upper Platte(2)	1,392	1,400	50	65	971	971	70	69
Wahoo	1,260	1,331	10(3)	20	656	687	52	52
TOTALS	25,237	27,673	42	44	15,982	16,134	63	58

(1) Antlerless Mule deer illegal

(2) Special sub-unit both years

(3) Either-sex permitted on Gifford Area

### Antelope

Summer aerial surveys indicated a decrease of about 20 percent in antelope numbers compared to 1974. However, the 1975 estimate of about 6,600 antelope in the better Panhandle range was about 7% higher than the last 5-year average. Decreases occurred in all but the North Sioux Unit. The productivity index of 55 young to 100 does was 10% higher than the preceding 2 years, but still lower than the 20-year average of 65 young to 100 does.

Persons who held rifle permits in 1973 and 1974 were not eligible to apply during the first application period, and there were 3,405 applications for 1,760 permits. Success for the 9-day rifle season was 82%, with 1,789 permittees taking 1,463 antelope. During the 64-day archery season 157 permittees bagged 7 antelope.

Table 2. Antelope permits, harvest and success.

Unit	Permits		Harvest		Percent Success	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
Banner	125	152	105	122	84	80
Box Butte	502	606	413	481	82	79
Brown	26	25	19	19	73	76
Cherry	129	129	94	105	72	81
Cheyenne	50	50	36	38	72	76
Dismal	103	105	65	75	63	71
Dundy	10	11	9	9	90	82
Garden	152	152	120	133	78	88
North Sioux	450	506	398	449	88	89
Rock	26	27	15	18	57	67
Wildhorse	76	26	31	14	40	54
Totals	1,649	1,789	1,305	1,463	79	82



During the 16-day spring season, 1,875 permittees bagged 490 gobblers for 26% overall success.

Brood routes indicated comparatively low turkey populations in the Round Top Unit, although production indices were normal. The young:adult hen ratio in the harvest was the second lowest in 14 years.

Hunters recorded a 57% success for the fall season, a considerable improvement from 1974's 44%. Primary affecting factor was an absence of pine seed, the presence of which has always resulted in markedly lower success rates.

Special spring and fall archery seasons were held for the first time. The 17-day spring season preceded the shotgun season, with 21 turkeys taken by 289 permittees. The 14-day fall season, also directly preceding the shotgun season, had 47 turkeys taken by 170 permittees for 28% success.

Some 86 turkeys were trapped, marked, and released at three sites along the Niobrara River from south of Springview to north of Newport.

Ten Merriam's turkeys, trapped north of Bassett, were transplanted and released near Orleans. Fifty-three hybrid turkeys, captured near the confluence of Eagle Creek with the Niobrara River, were released at sites in Dixon, Saunders, Cedar, and Thayer counties. There hybrids (Merriam's x Eastern x Domestic) have adapted to an area where Merriam's and Rio Grandes have been unsuccessful, and it appears that they have potential for other parts of Nebraska.

Table 3. Turkey permits, harvest, and success

Unit	Permits		Harvest		Percent Success	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
<u>Spring Season</u>						
Niobrara	350	400	106	113	30	28
Round Top	1,000	1,200	269	292	27	24
Southwest	75	75	17	13	23	17
Verdigre	100	125	46	55	46	44
Wildcat	50	75	11	17	22	23
Sub-totals	1,575	1,875	449	490	29	26
<u>Fall Season</u>						
Niobrara	500	509	255	305	51	60
Round Top	1,500	1,512	634	833	42	55
Sub-totals	2,000	2,011	889	1,138	44	57
GRAND TOTALS	3,575	3,886	1,338	1,628	37	42

## Upland Game

### Pheasant

The spring rural mail carrier survey indicated a 22% drop in pheasant numbers from 1974. Winter storms contributed to this decline in some parts of the state. The summer count indicated the statewide populations was down 18%. Major declines occurred in all sections of the state except the Southwest the third consecutive such year, and the population was at its lowest point since the early 1940's when record-keeping began. Production was good, but did not replace the loss in breeding population.

The 1975 season was reduced from 72 days to 44 days, running Nov. 1 through December 14. The Panhandle was closed. Bag and possession limits were 3 and 9.

Results from data collected at nine highway check stations the opening weekend indicated hunting success very similar to 1974. Opening weekend hunting conditions were excellent over most of the state, with nearly all the crops harvested.

A limited stocking program was undertaken, with 11,900 day-old pheasant chicks purchased from game farms in Kansas and given to cooperators to rear. Chicks were banded and released at eight weeks of age. Most of the 7,100 raised were released in the Panhandle (2,818), with the remainder turned loose in the Northeast (1,479), central and north central (1,707), and southeast (1,101).

### Quail

Pre-season surveys indicated a decline in quail numbers to the lowest level in the past 12 years. The whistle count indicated a 14% decline, and rural mail carriers reports showed a 16% decline from 1974. The major quail range in the southeast was down 28% and the northeast down 40%. The southwest and Republican Valley showed a small increase.

Check station data from the opening weekend indicates hunting pressure about the same as 1974 and hunting success 8% below 1974. Nearly all crops were out by the season opening, and the weather was near perfect the first day.

The 72-day season opened November 1 and closed January 11. Daily bag and possession limits were 6 and 18.

### Grouse

The spring breeding population declined 10% according to the display ground survey and 21% according to the rural mail carrier survey. Range conditions during the summer were extremely poor over most of the sandhills due to the drouth and large numbers of cattle held on the range. As a result, grouse production was poor. The summer rural carrier survey indicated a 33% decline from 1974.

Opening weekend check station data showed hunting pressure down about 16% with a drop in success of about 10%. Prairie chickens comprise 18% of the opening weekend bag compared to 23% in 1974. The 37-day season was one week shorter than in 1974. Daily bag and possession limits were 3 and 6.



## Cottontails

The cottontail populations remained at low levels according to the summer surveys. The quail whistle count routes showed a 10% decline from 1974, while rural mail carriers indicated a 17% decline for the spring and a 24% increase for the summer but still 18% below the previous 5-year average. Production of young was down from 382 per 100 adults in 1974 to 282/100 adults in 1975. The 1975 season opened Sept. 1 and closed Feb. 29, with a daily limit of 7 and possession limit of 21.

## Squirrels

No population surveys were conducted for squirrels, but field reports indicated a good crop and good hunting success. The 1975 season opened Sept. 1 and closed Jan. 31, with a daily bag limit of 7 and possession limit of 21.

## Nongame and Endangered Species

Work was begun on a comprehensive management plan for nongame and endangered wildlife. When completed, the plan will outline goals, objectives, problems and strategies for agency operations. Essential to the plan was enactment of the Nongame and Endangered Species Act by the 1975 Legislature.

Reported sightings of the black-footed ferret, whooping crane, and swift fox were recorded and attempts were made to verify observations.

Several proposed federal rules on endangered and threatened species were examined to determine their possible effect in Nebraska. Appropriate comments and recommendations were sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Field research was conducted in western Nebraska to determine productivity and nesting requirements of the prairie falcon and golden eagle. Five golden eagle and 24 prairie falcon nestlings were banded to obtain information on their movements.

Considerable information and data was gathered and organized as a basis to revise and update lists of endangered and threatened wildlife species in Nebraska.

Critical reviews were made of proposed nationwide management plans on the black-footed ferret and peregrine falcon that were prepared by the respective recovery teams.

Sixteen falconry permits were issued for the year, including processing of applications, administering written examinations, checking facilities, and maintaining proper records and report files.

Some 101 coyote aerial spotting permits and 51 coyote aerial shooting permits were issued. Considerable time was required to process applications, check compliance in submitting quarterly activity reports, compile harvest data from quarterly reports, and prepare related correspondence.

A survey of licensed Nebraska furbuyers showed that 44,159 coyotes were sold to buyers by sport hunters and trappers in 1975.

### Waterfowl

During the first two weeks in April a fowl cholera outbreak claimed an estimated 25,000 waterfowl in Phelps County. The apparent causes of the outbreak were severe drought conditions that reduced the amount of water and the severe weather that held the ducks and geese in the area much longer than normal.

Cleanup operations resulted in 13,748 waterfowl carcasses picked up and burned. Of that total 41% were geese, including 4,865 whitefronts. Mallards and pintails were the most common ducks, with 2,882 and 2,593 respectively. The cleanup operation was conducted on recommendations from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which also provided diagnostic services.

Along with the waterfowl, an estimated 5,000 to 10,000 crows were lost. Nine whooping cranes that landed in the contaminated area were hazed north to the Platte River without sustaining any losses.

Aerial surveys in May indicated 62,648 breeding ducks in the Sand Hills, with 14,385 in the south-central rainbasin area. The 77,033 total for the two areas was 2.8% below the 1974. Mallards, blue-winged teals, gadwalls, and shovelers made up over 72 percent of the total breeding population. The May water index was down 22.3% in the Sand Hills and down 28.5% in the rain-water basins from 1974.

Banding efforts resulted in over 1,500 wintering mallards banded at four sites, well below the quota of 2,300. Wintering Canada geese were banded on the Clear Creek and Garden County Refuges. Of the 269 Geese banded, 37 were classed as small geese from the Short Grass Prairie population. Spring banding efforts resulted in the banding of 63 whitefronts and 49 Canadas.

The Canada goose restoration program moved into its sixth year with 380 goslings released in the Sand Hills, with a total release of 1,696 to date. Releases were made in southwest and central Cherry, Brown and Rock counties. This was the first year releases were made in Cherry County south of Cody. The north central Sand Hills remained closed to dark goose hunting in 1975.

The 1975 High Plains duck season opened Oct. 11 and closed Jan. 1, with the same boundary as in previous years. The daily bag and possession was on the point system of 100+ points daily. The Low Plains season opened Oct. 4 and closed Oct. 12, reopened Oct. 25 and closed Dec. 14.

Point values for both areas were 100 points for redheads and canvasbacks, 70 points hen mallards, wood ducks and hooded mergansers, 10 points blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, cinnamon teal, scaup, pintail, gadwall, shoveler and all other mergansers. All other species were 20 points in the High Plains and 25 points in the Low Plains.

The 1975 duck season was better than 1974, but dry conditions prevented it from being better than it was.



The 1975 goose season ran Oct. 4-24 and Nov. 1 - Dec. 21. There were restrictions on the taking of Canada and white-fronted geese in the Sand Hills and central portion of the state. The limit was five geese of which no more than one could be a Canada or a white-front or one of each. The season was good late in the season, but early light goose hunting was not up to par.

Wintering waterfowl numbered over 300,000 mallards and 22,000 Canada geese in spite of really cold weather and heavy snow fall.

Preliminary harvest data indicates just over 300,000 ducks and over 34,000 geese taken during the 1975 season.

#### Furbearers

The calculated 1974-75 fur harvest was over 192,000 pelts worth an estimated \$1,000,000. The number of trappers increased 33% with 4,040 active trappers in the field.

#### Mourning Dove

During the summer banding program, 2,280 doves were banded. For the first time in 23 years Nebraska had an open season on mourning doves. The season ran Sept. 1-30, with bag and possession limits of 10 and 30. During the 30-day season an estimated 51,772 hunters took over 839,000 doves. Just over 200,000 hunter days were spent pursuing doves.

#### Game Farm permits

Two types of game farm permits are issued: (1) Game Fancier Pet permit, and (2) Commercial Game Farm permit. A total of 554 pet permits was issued in 1975 compared with 438 in 1974, a 20% increase. There were 146 commercial game farm permits issued compared to 132 the previous year, a 9% increase.

#### Controlled Shooting Area Permits

Two controlled shooting area operations were licensed in 1975--Howard Till, Ashland, and Dr. Larry Bausch, Raymond.

#### Scientific Collecting Permits

Approximately 100 scientific permits were issued to allow various species of wildlife to be collected for strictly scientific or educational purposes.





